Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 31, Issue 7
JULY/AUGUST 2023

No Secret

National Treasure stays up front to take the Preakness for Baffert

Country Life Farm:

Stuart Hannan

Country Life-born two-time Horse of the Year Cigar is the leading Maryland-bred earner of all time.

Bred by. Sired by. Raced by. Foaled at. Nine decades of distinguished Maryland horses include:

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As well as RAISE YOU (dam of 1963 champion 2yo colt Raise a Native)

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VALAY MAID (1990 3yo filly, by CLF's Carnivalay)
AMERI VALAY (1990 3yo male, by Carnivalay)
URBANE (1994 2yo filly, 1996 older female, by CLF's Citidancer)
SECRET PROSPECT (1995 2yo filly, by CLF's Allen's Prospect)
GIN TALKING (1999 2yo filly, 2000 3yo filly & MD-bred Horse of the Year, by Allen's Prospect)
HOOKEDONTHEFEELIN (1999 3yo filly, 2000 older female, by Citidancer)
PERFECT MOON (2003 2yo male, by CLF's Malibu Moon)
DECLAN'S MOON (2004 2yo male, MD-bred Horse of the Year, 2005 3yo male by Malibu Moon)
CHEROKEE'S BOY (2005 older male, MD-bred Horse of the Year, by Citidancer)
SPECTACULAR MALIBU (2006 2yo filly, by Malibu Moon)
AH DAY (2006 3yo male, by Malibu Moon)
ASK THE MOON (2007 2yo filly, 2011 older female, by Malibu Moon)
MOON CATCHER (2007 3yo filly, by Malibu Moon)
BEN'S CAT (2010-2014 turf runner, 2011-2014 MD-bred Horse of the Year, by CLF's Parker's Storm Cat)
MAYLA (2015 3yo filly, bred by CLF)
LIMITED VIEW (2017 2yo filly, by CLF's Freedom Child)

Stakes horses of distinction carrying Country Life's orange-and-blue silks include:

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FLASH McCAUL (sp, $214,821)
SAGAMOON (sw, $195,097)
SURF LIGHT (sw, $185,137)
VIRGINIA BEACH (sw, $175,280)
MONTE CRISTA (sw, $159,929)
MERRYLAND MISSY (sw, $138,670)
IF NOT FOR HER (sp, $123,590)
SUNDAY IN MALIBU (sp, $119,558)

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Jim McCue (2)

A $20,000 Fasig-Tipton 2019 Midlantic 2YO purchase, this 6-year-old mare is $2,750 shy of $300,000 in earnings for Country Life & Partners (thru 6/4/23).

Country Life Farm Racing and Breeding Partnerships attract veterans and newcomers alike, and in this Winner's Circle photo of Combat Queen's partners, a pair of fathers and sons.

Pictured at left are Ed Brunner and son Matt (behind wife Angela); jockey Johan Rosado; Mike Pons (co-owner of Country Life); Rob Kern beside his father Bob; Frank Morgan; and assistant trainer Tana Aubrey (of the Mike Trombetta Stable).

Please sign up for our monthly newsletter and visit our website (www.countrylifefarm.com) for upcoming partnership opportunities from this summer's yearling sales.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

National Treasure finds key to Preakness

In trainer Bob Baffert's return to the Triple Crown stage, National Treasure fights off Blazing Sevens to win the Preakness in a photo on a strange day at Pimlico. By Tom Law. Page 20

Former claimer takes Black-Eyed Susan

Taxed rallies past Hoosier Philly and favorite Faiza to capture Friday feature; Rattle N Roll wins tight one in Pimlico Special for Kenny McPeek; Maryland's Anthony Hamilton plays role in Dinner Party Stakes win. By Tom Law and Joe Clancy. Page 26

May sale delivers $1 million leader

Randy Hartley and Dean De Renzo produce the sale-topper with Arrogate filly purchased by Kerri Radcliffe. By Joe Clancy. Page 34

Region plays part in Derby, Belmont wins

Kentucky Derby winner Mage springboards to victory after selling at Timonium as a 2-year-old; Belmont Stakes hero Arcangelo finds classic path via Pennsylvania. By Joe Clancy. Page 42

Talking Tesio: Famed breeder's impact lasts

Maryland breeders host discussion about legendary breeder Federico Tesio, how he drew an honor from Maryland and what he still means to the Thoroughbred world. By Sandra McKee. Page 48

Owner finds success on flat, over jumps

Tennessee resident Patrick Lewis enjoyed some spring, with a Grade 2 win on the flat by Red Carpet Ready and important steeplechase wins with Freddy Flintshire and West Newton. By Paul Halloran. Page 60

On our cover: National Treasure (right) fights off Blazing Sevens at the finish of the Preakness Stakes. *Photo by Alex Evers/Eclipse Sportswire*

— Entries —

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 16
Melind's Adam

From the Editor 18
You ready to defend racing?

Trackside 54
Checking in at Monmouth Park

Broker's Tip 58
July–Momentum builds

Steeplechase Times 64
Spring wrapup

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 67

New Jersey newsletter 73

North Carolina newsletter 77

Pennsylvania newsletter 79

PTHA newsletter 83

South Carolina newsletter 85

Virginia newsletter 87

West Virginia newsletter 89

Steeplechase newsletter 91

— Evening Stables —

Classifieds & Advertisers' Index 93

Looking Back 94

Past Time 96

Midlantic Fall Yearlings

OCTOBER 2-3, 2023

TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

ENTRIES CLOSE: JULY 7, 2023

2022 RESULTS

AVERAGE

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MEDIAN

THIRD HIGHEST IN SALE HISTORY

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$200,000
MUNNINGS COLT

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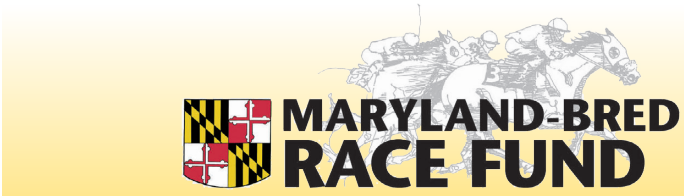
ARROGATE COLT

$170,000
VIOLENCE COLT

"I thought it was pretty strong... Fasig-Tipton did a great job and had a lot of really strong horses here and brought some strong buyers."

-Becky Davis, a leading consignor in 2022

Fasig-Tipton
125 Years



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July 29

$75,000 MISS DISCO 3YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

$75,000 STAR DE NASKRA 3YO, 7 furlongs

August 19

$75,000 ALL BRANDY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

$75,000 FIND 3YO & Up, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

89th Annual

MHBA

THOROUGHBRED

Yearling Show

Sunday, July 23 at 10 a.m.

Judge: Ned Allard

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Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 31, Issue 7

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AT LAUREL PARK

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SAT/JUL 1	$275,000 IN PURSES
STAKES CLOSE SAT/JUN 17	
$75,000	THE JAMEELA STAKES (MD BRED/MD SIRED) *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // Six Furlongs // Turf*
$100,000	THE LAUREL DASH *Three Year Olds and Upward // Six Furlongs // Turf*
$100,000	THE CONCERN STAKES - LISTED *Three Year Olds // Seven Furlongs*
SAT/JUL 15	**$300,000 IN PURSES**
STAKES CLOSE SAT/JUL 1	
$100,000	THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY - LISTED *Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/8 Miles // Turf*
$100,000	THE BIG DREYFUS STAKES *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/8 Miles // Turf*
$100,000	THE CAESAR'S WISH *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 Mile*
SAT/JUL 29	**$500,000 IN PURSES**
STAKES CLOSE SAT/JUL 15	
$150,000	THE FRANK J. DE FRANCIS MEMORIAL DASH - LISTED *Three Year Olds and Upward // Six Furlongs*
$100,000	THE ALMA NORTH STAKES *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 6 and 1/2 Furlongs*
$100,000	THE DEPUTED TESTAMONY *Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/8 Miles*
$75,000	THE STAR DE NASKRA STAKES (MD BRED/MD SIRED) *Three Year Olds // Seven Furlongs*
$75,000	THE MISS DISCO STAKES (MD BRED/MD SIRED) *Fillies - Three Year Olds // Seven Furlongs*

ALL STAKES WILL BE RUN WITHOUT THE USE OF LASIX

11 STAKES TOTALING $1,075,000 OVER THREE WEEKENDS

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AT LAUREL PARK

AUGUST TURF FESTIVAL STAKES

SUN/AUG 13	$200,000 IN PURSES
STAKES CLOSE SUN/JUL 30	
$100,000	THE BALD EAGLE DERBY *Three Year Olds // 1 and 3/16 Mile // Turf*
$100,000	THE SEARCHING STAKES *Fillies - Three Year Olds // 1 and 1/16 Mile // Turf*
SAT/AUG 19	**$150,000 IN PURSES**
STAKES CLOSE SAT/AUG 5	
$75,000	THE FIND STAKES (MD BRED/MD SIRED) *Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/16 Mile // Turf*
$75,000	THE ALL BRANDY (MD BRED/MD SIRED) *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/16 Mile // Turf*

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Say It Again

"You wonder why you like this feeling."
Owner Michael Lund Petersen, while calming his nerves with a cigarette, before Faiza started in the Black-Eyed Susan

"Longevity and persistence have been the motto that I have had."
Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Cricket Goodall, accepting congratulations for the MHBA's new library and education center (and headquarters) in Reisterstown

"People don't understand the finesse that takes."
Tony Millan, longtime friend and valet of Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez, on the Preakness-winning ride

"I couldn't spell his name if it meant my life."
Sequel Bloodstock's Becky Thomas, about Thabani Nzimande (groom of future Kentucky Derby winner Mage)

"When the mares start to foal, it's always 2 o'clock in the morning, it's nice to have help. It's the only time they get up quickly."
Breeder Betsy Barr, about college-aged daughters Elizabeth and Anne helping with foalings

Go Figure

9 Years between graded stakes wins for trainer Randy Morse. He won the 2014 Stephen Foster-G1 with Moonshine Mullin and this year's Black-Eyed Susan-G2 with Taxed.

Names of the Month

Preakness Weekend cards at Pimlico Race Course showcased some of the biggest names in racing, and some fun names. While not necessarily creative or based on pedigree, a few spurred some research.

Kingfish Stevens, fourth in the James W. Murphy Stakes for Hammer Time Racing and trainer Carlos Martin May 20, is named for an early television character George "Kingfish" Stevens. Played by Tim Moore – whose other jobs included groom, jockey, boxer, vaudeville actor, tuba player and Broadway star and comedian – Stevens was a regular role on the *Amos 'n' Andy Show* in the 1950s.

Evan Harlan, third in a turf allowance for Sean Feld and trainer Graham Motion May 19, is named for a musician, composer, teacher and music director. Evan Harlan played the accordion and piano in a variety of locales including California (where he learned classical piano at UC Santa Barbara), Massachusetts, jazz clubs in New York and Boston and beyond. Known for morning swims at Walden Pond, eating real breakfast at the Deluxe Town Diner, making home-grown pesto and for at least once pairing a tuxedo with Birkenstock sandals, he died of brain cancer at 60 in 2014.

Benny Havens, eighth in the same race as Evan Harlan, gets his name from Benjamin J. Havens who owned the Benny Havens Tavern in Highland Falls, N.Y., south of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Havens (born in 1787) and his wife Letitia ran the tavern, technically off limits but also very much open to cadets, which served "good food, flapjacks, ham, roasted fowl and flagons of hot rum and cider drinks." Ulysses Grant, Jefferson Davis and Edgar Allen Poe were regulars at Benny Havens. Now an Irish-themed bar on Main Street, the place inspired a song, a band and – apparently – Maryland breeder Little Man Farm.

Milestones

DOUGLAS LEES

Kathy (left) and Sanna Neilson finished 1-2 in the 2023 Maryland Hunt Cup.

Presented:

To steeplechase horsewomen Kathy and Sanna Neilson, the 2023 S. Bryce Wing Award, by the Maryland Hunt Cup Association. Given to recognize an outstanding contribution to Maryland timber racing, the award honors the memory of Wing, a member of the Maryland Hunt Cup Association from 1939 until his death at age 85 in 1975. Wing was secretary of the Maryland Hunt Cup from 1956-66 and also president of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association (now the National Steeplechase Association) from 1948-64. He was also a member of The Jockey Club and a master of foxhounds at Elkridge-Harford. The 2023 recipients have both given a lifetime of contributions to the sport, and saddled the 1-2 finishers in the 2023 Hunt Cup. As trainers, the sisters have sent out 270 starters in Maryland timber races, including 30 Maryland Hunt Cup entries, and have two wins each in the demanding test. In addition, Sanna won the Hunt Cup twice as a jockey. Their association with American steeplechasing goes back generations. Sanna and Kathy's great grandfather Redmond C. Stewart founded the Green Spring Valley Hounds and their great uncle Plunket Stewart founded Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds. Kathy and Sanna's grandfather Redmond Stewart rode in the Maryland Hunt Cup as a jockey and went on to win it as an owner. Their other grandfather, Louis Neilson Jr., was master of foxhounds at the Elkridge-Harford Hunt, and their mother Nina Stewart was a master at Cheshire Foxhounds. Their father, Louis "Paddy" Neilson III, rode in the Maryland Hunt Cup 21 times, winning three as a rider and once as a trainer. Sanna won the Hunt Cup as a jockey in 1991 with Tom Bob (Ire) and in 1993 with Ivory Poacher. As a trainer, she won with The Bruce (NZ) in 2007 and Guts For Garters (Ire) in 2014. The latter finished third in 2013 and second in 2015 and 2016. Most recently, Sanna sent out Royal Ruse to a second in this year's Hunt Cup. In 2002, Kathy tasted Hunt Cup success with her first entrant – Young Dubliner (Ire). Twenty-one years later, she collected her second Hunt Cup win when Withoutmoreado (Ire) triumphed for owner and past Wing Award recipient Irv Naylor. Another Hunt Cup-related award, the George Brown Bowl which periodically honors a notable equine performance by a Maryland timber horse, was not presented this year.

Won:

Five races at Presque Isle Downs June 6, jockey Antonio Gallardo. On an eight-race card, he captured the third through sixth races, finished fifth in the seventh and capped the night with a victory in the eighth.

Milestones

Won:

His 2,500th race, Charles Town-based jockey Arnaldo Bocachica with a maiden win at the West Virginia track aboard Duncan Idaho May 20. The winner, trained by Jeff Runco for David Raim, is a full-brother to West Virginia-bred stars Muad'dib and Late Night Pow Wow.

Honored:

As the honorary postmaster at the 2023 Preakness, Maryland Horse Breeders Association executive director Cricket Goodall. In 1996, the United States Postal Service opened a temporary Preakness station at Pimlico the week of the Preakness and the Maryland Jockey Club has named an honorary postmaster to recognize achievements in Maryland racing with the award presented at the annual Alibi Breakfast before the Preakness Stakes-G1. Past honorees include Hall of Fame trainers D. Wayne Lukas and Nick Zito, Maryland-bred champions Cigar, Ben's Cat and Knicks Go, and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. Goodall came to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association in 1986 to work on Maryland Million Day, founded by sportscaster Jim McKay to celebrate Maryland horses. She has been promoting and advocating for Maryland's horse breeding and racing legacy ever since and has been instrumental in preserving the rich history of Maryland breeding and racing. In addition, the MJC honored Maryland Racing Commission chairman Michael Algeo with a special award of merit for making a positive impact on the racing industry. Algeo was appointed to the Maryland Racing Commission in December 2016 by then Gov. Larry Hogan. Algeo has worked with the Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland horsemen and breeders while emphasizing cooperation, communication and safety. The former associate judge for Montgomery County Circuit Court is special counsel to the state's attorney, felony division chief, and an adjunct professor of law at American University, Washington College of Law. Also at the Alibi Breakfast May

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

May 9 – June 4

Maryland-bred

AWARD WANTED, b.m., 2017, Macho Uno—Touring Hong Kong, by Cherokee's Boy. B-Dr. Alexandro Rubim Dias; O-No Guts No Glory Farm & Erica Upton; T-John J. Robb. $150,000 Obeah S, Delaware, May 27.

New Jersey-bred

BEACH DAZE, b.f., 2019, Blofeld—Ysabell T., by Gators N Bears. B-Lenny Rera & Beth Rera; O-All In Racing Stables LLC & J P S Stable; T-Farrel Mann. $85,000 Smart N Classy H, Monmouth, June 4.

MIA'S CRUSADE, b.f., 2019, Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon. B-Dianne Boyken; O-Joseph Ioia, Gayle Ioia & Chuck Spina; T-Chuck Spina. $85,000 Spruce Fir H, Monmouth, May 20.

SPEAKING, dk.b./br.g., 2019, Mr Speaker—High Noon Nellie, by Silver Deputy. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $85,000 John J. Reilly H, Monmouth, May 21.

Pennsylvania-bred

BUY LAND AND SEE, gr./ro.h., 2017, Cairo Prince—Twiggles, by Maria's Mon. B/O-Joseph M. Imbesi; T-Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 With Anticipation S, Penn National, June 2.

GORDIAN KNOT, b.g., 2020, Social Inclusion—Mia, by Put It Back. B-Mr. & Mrs. Joe Imbesi; O-Joseph M. Imbesi; T-Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 Danzig S, Penn National, June 2.

HEARTYCONSTITUTION, dk.b./br.f., 2019, Constitution—Distinct Sparkle, by With Distinction. B-Roberta L. Schneider MD; O-Wayne Sanders & Highlander Training Center; T-Joe Sharp. $100,000 Lyphard S, Penn National, June 2.

LATE FROST, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Frosted—La La's Cookin, by Harlan's Holiday. B-Gregory & Caroline Bentley Breeders; O-Runnymoore Racing LLC; T-Michael R. Matz. $100,000 New Start S, Penn National, June 2.

Virginia-bred

GIGANTE, b.c., 2020, Not This Time—Summertime Green, by Empire Maker. B-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm; O-Iapetus Racing & Diamond T Racing; T-Steven M. Asmussen. $150,000 Caesars H, Horseshoe Indianapolis, May 17.

West Virginia-bred

GREAT SPIRIT, b.f., 2020, Great Notion—Happy Numbers, by Polish Numbers. B-Jill N. Daniel; O-Jill Daniel; T-Crystal G. Pickett. $75,000 Fancy Buckles S, Charles Town, June 3.

LITTLE ROO ROO, ch.g., 2020, Limehouse—Pepper Bay, by Bop. B-Sherwood Bryant; O/T-Michael E. Jones Jr. $75,000 Coin Collector S, Charles Town, May 13.

Milestones

18, recently retired *Daily Racing Form* writer Jay Privman received the David F. Woods Award for a story on trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who saddled the filly Secret Oath in the 2022 Preakness. Privman also won the Woods Award in 2002 and 2013. Photographer Rob Carr received the Jerry Frutkoff Award for a photo of jockey Jose Ortiz overcome with emotion after winning the 2022 Preakness aboard Early Voting. A Baltimore-based staff photographer with Getty Images, Carr has been covering Thoroughbred racing for more than 30 years and grew up in the Thoroughbred industry as his father worked at several farms in the region. Carr previously earned the Frutkoff Award in 2009 and 2017.

Hats for Sale

By no means was keeping track of hats on heads at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales a story assignment or even something on the radar screen of items to pay attention to, but here we are.

In what is becoming something of a tradition, this year's hat game included: Baltimore Orioles, Breeders' Cup 2021, Claiborne Farm, regular cowboy hat, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, No Guts No Glory Farm, Simoff Horse Transport, Taylor Made golf, Taylor Made horses, Breeders' Cup Jack Christopher, regular straw hat, Maryland Million, Baltimore Ravens, Country Life Farm, Mo Donegal, Brook Ledge Horse Transport, Stuart Morris Bloodstock, Flightline, Mage, Uncle Mo, Watership Down Stud, Street Lute, Holy Bull, Saratoga Race Course, University of Alabama, Under Armour.

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Six-month Maryland agreement could pause training/stabling at Pimlico

By Frank Vespe

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

The six-month agreement hammered out by the Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and Maryland Horse Breeders Association in early June will keep racing going in Maryland through 2023.

It could also lead to the closure of Pimlico Race Course for training and stabling, according to a copy of the agreement obtained by *The Racing Biz*. Pimlico may be the future for Maryland racing, but it appears Laurel is the present.

The agreement is subject to the approval of the Maryland Racing Commission, which had not reviewed it prior to a June 6 meeting where the agreement was announced by MJC acting president Mike Rogers.

Tim Keefe, a Laurel Park-based trainer and president of the MTHA, confirmed that the accord could lead to the potential end – for the time being – of training and stabling at Pimlico.

"It's cost savings, quite frankly," Keefe said of the decision. "It's very costly just to keep the track open for training. They're merely doing it as a cost savings, and I don't have a problem with that."

The closure of Pimlico is one of three major provisions in the agreement and comes with conditions. One is that Laurel have enough stabling to accommodate the additional horses, with the agreement calling for the MJC to obtain "proper governmental approvals for horses to be stabled at Tent Barns 1, 2 and 3."

In addition, the agreement calls for dormitories at Pimlico to remain open "unless and until the MTHA and MJC have agreed and implemented a suitable plan for alternative housing" for affected backstretch workers. The costs of any such "suitable plan" are to be borne equally by the parties to the agreement.

"We're going to do everything we can to accommodate everybody who's living there," Keefe said. "We're cognizant of that and trying to work through that, as well."

If those conditions are met, according to the agreement, "[T]he MJC shall have the right to consolidate all stabling and training at Laurel Park."

Keefe said that the parties are considering a brief meet at Pimlico this year, perhaps following the seven-day Timonium stand, which concludes on Labor Day. Assuming the other conditions are met, he said the track's closure would probably occur after that meet.

The move is not expected to alter what appears to be the emerging vision of the future for Maryland racing. In recent months, stakeholders have largely coalesced around the idea that the economics of the sport no longer support operating two full racetracks within 20 or so miles of each other and that the industry must consolidate all or most operations at one facility.

Pimlico by itself is not large enough to accommodate the industry's stabling needs, but the political momentum is behind Pimlico as the surviving track.

"At a time when we are trying to save some money and cut costs, it doesn't make sense to keep Pimlico open," Keefe said. "I'm supportive of them closing Pimlico [for training]. I just think it's an expense that shouldn't be borne right now, especially knowing everything we're going through, and there's plenty of space, or will be plenty of space, at Laurel."

The agreement also calls for Maryland's horsemen and breeders to pay the MJC's parent company 1/ST Racing $2 million divided into six monthly installments. That money, according to the agreement, is "to support expenses for racing and operations by the MJC." It is in addition to a 3-percent shift toward the MJC in the allocation of the pari-mutuel handle, part of the original 10-year agreement between the parties that expired at the end of 2022.

Horsemen and breeders had also paid $2 million to defray the MJC's losses in the about-to-expire agreement.

"That's consistent with what we have paid them in the past," said MHBA president Kent Murray. "I don't think we should be paying them to race, but there is precedent for that. So that's what we're going to continue for now."

The agreement also directs the purse account and the Maryland Bred Fund to "always remain current monthly." The racing commission oversees the Bred Fund – and has authority over the purse account, according to state legal opinions – but has traditionally been hands-off toward the purse account, which sources have said has at times been underfunded.

Commission chairman Michael Algeo declined to comment on the agreement. Rogers told the commission Tuesday he "was not at liberty to talk about the details" of the agreement.

In a release, the MJC said, "The racing industry is looking forward to continuing to work with state officials and elected leaders to discuss long-term operating models and plans for new racing and training facilities."

The company declined further comment.

The accord comes at a tumultuous time for Maryland's Thoroughbred industry. Legislation passed in the most recent General Assembly session creates a Racetrack Operating Authority, and Gov. Wes Moore announced his appointees in June. The authority will have the ability to operate racetracks and training facilities.

The authority's enabling legislation directs it by Dec. 1 to provide the state legislature a report comprising a "review of best practices for Thoroughbred industry operating models" and recommendations on what model would work best for Maryland. That report could – and some industry insiders hope it will – point to a different approach to racing in the state.

At the same time, 1/ST Racing has indicated a willingness to reduce its racing footprint in the state. With delays, inflation, and supply chain issues, the rebuilds of Pimlico and Laurel envisioned in the 2020 Racing and Community Development Act are infeasible with the available funding. That leaves the industry at something of a crossroads. While the agreement announced in June solves none of those problems, it creates time and space to work through them.

"We needed it so that the state can get the racing authority in place," Murray said. "It allows racing to continue while that work is being done, which I think is good for the horsemen." ■

Maryland governor appoints members to new racing authority

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore announced appointments to the state's new Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority in early June. Created through Senate Bill 720, passed this year, the authority will make recommendations regarding the racing industry in Maryland and will work to improve horse racing and training facilities in the state.

"The horse racing industry is an important part of our state's history and our present-day economy. We have a long, distinguished tradition of racing here in our state," said Moore in a statement. "I was proud to attend the Preakness as governor this year and to have the opportunity to celebrate that incredible Maryland institution. My administration is committed to working with all stakeholders to not only move us forward but to ensure a solid, successful and sustainable future for Maryland racing. The Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority will help us reach that goal, and I appreciate the General Assembly's leadership and action in recognizing the need for this new Authority."

The authority, separate from the Maryland Racing Commission, will convene experts to study issues and make recommendations about the future of racing, including investment in Maryland's racing facilities, to ensure that Maryland remains a premier racing destination for many years to come.

Under the bill, the governor appoints:

- Three members, including the authority chair;
- One member from a list of two individuals nominated by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association;
- One member from a list of two individuals nominated by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association;
- Three ex-officio members of the community who reside near Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course, and the Bowie Training Center.

The authority also includes:

- A member appointed by the Senate President;
- A member appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- A representative from the Maryland Stadium Authority;
- A representative from the Maryland Economic Development Corporation;
- A member of the Maryland Racing Commission.

Greg Cross, a veteran attorney at Venable LLP with significant experience in the state's racing industry, will chair the authority. Cross is recognized as one of the nation's expert commercial real estate and structured finance litigators.

Cross represented breeding farms beginning in the 1990s and the State of Maryland in connection with the 2009 bankruptcy of then-owner of the Preakness Stakes, Magna Entertainment. He negotiated a 2010 agreement with the predecessor of The Stronach Group that ensured the Preakness could not be moved out of Maryland. He has represented the Maryland Economic Development Corporation in the acquisition, construction and redevelopment of racing facilities as required by House Bill 897. Cross spent the past year engaged in conversations with Maryland horsemen, breeders, the stadium authority and Maryland Jockey Club owner 1/ST Racing regarding options for the future.

"Greg Cross is the leader we need in this critical position," said Moore. "He has helped Maryland racing navigate challenging times in the past and has played a key role in the development and implementation of racing legislation in recent years – he is the right person to hit the ground running and help us chart a path forward."

"I am excited and honored to accept this appointment," said Cross.

"I care deeply about the future of Maryland racing and I appreciate Governor Moore's confidence in me to lead this new authority. In partnership with my fellow appointees, we will get to work quickly to explore and define possibilities for the future of Maryland's horse racing industry."

Additional authority members appointed by Moore include:

Mary Tydings, a leader in talent recruitment and placement who recently retired after 35 years at Russell Reynolds Associates, a major international executive search and leadership advisory firm. During her career she partnered with major national and international foundations, non-governmental organizations, and cultural and higher education institutions to recruit key leaders. Tydings and her family have long ties to racing in Maryland. She participated in riding programs in her youth and her family owned several steeplechase horses. Her uncle, John Schapiro, was the longtime owner of Laurel Park and her cousin, Joe Davies, is a steeplechase trainer.

Jeff Hargrave, the founder and president of Mahogany, Inc., a commercial construction firm specializing in architectural millwork, general contracting, and commissioning services since 1991. The Baltimore native graduated from Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School and later studied business management at Catonsville Community College and the University of Phoenix. His career track moved from carpenter to foreman, superintendent and owner and CEO of Mahogany. In 2018 Hargrave won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award in the service category for the Mid-Atlantic region and was also named a national finalist. Hargrave is a member of numerous boards that support the community, chair of Presidents' RoundTable and vice chair of Baltimore Development Corporation. He is a board member for the Greater Baltimore Committee and Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

Alan Foreman (nominated by the MTHA), one of the leading racing law attorneys in the United States. In addition to his law practice, Foreman is chair and chief executive officer of Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Inc., based in Stevenson, Md., which represents more than 20,000 owners and trainers throughout the United States. He is also a founding director of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and counsel to many horsemen's and racing industry organizations. Early in his career, Foreman served as an assistant attorney general of Maryland and counsel to the Maryland Racing Commission. Foreman co-authored the widely recognized Task Force Report on Racehorse Health and Safety that followed the spate of catastrophic breakdowns at Aqueduct Racetrack in 2011-12. Foreman represented the Maryland racing industry in the negotiations that developed the Maryland Racing and Community Redevelopment Plan for Pimlico and Laurel Park. His law practice involves all areas of equine and horse racing law representing horse owners, breeders, farms, jockeys, stables, trainers and horsemen's organizations.

Thomas J. Rooney (nominated by the MHBA), a former U.S. congressman and current president and CEO of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. A Thoroughbred owner and breeder from one of America's great sporting families, Rooney has taken an active role in his family's Shamrock Farm, a Thoroughbred breeding and lay-up operation in Woodbine, Md., founded by his grandfather. Rooney has a deep background in racing and sports. He grew up attending the races with family members in his native Pennsylvania as well as in Maryland, New York, Florida, and Kentucky. Rooney has also served on the board of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. As a congressman, Rooney focused on economic, agricultural, national security and military issues. Prior to becoming a member of the House of Representatives, Rooney served with the U.S. Army as a lawyer in the JAG Corps.

The three appointed ex-officio members of the community include: **Joe Franco** (Laurel Park); **Nicole Earle** (Pimlico Race Course); and **Gavin Stokes** (Bowie Training Center). ■

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Melind's Adam

SYDNEY PERRY

Carrie Schein with Melind's Adam.

Blame it all on Fusaichi Pegasus. Eleven-year-old Carrie Schein was watching her first Kentucky Derby broadcast in May 2000 when the image of a striking mahogany bay colt in the paddock splashed across her TV screen. At that point, all she knew about racing was that she loved Thoroughbreds. Schein immediately fell in love and declared the horse her choice to win the race.

"He won, and I never looked back," Schein said. "I decided I was going to learn everything I could about racing. My dream horse was always a bay mare who had actually been a racehorse, but that dream wouldn't become a reality until a few years later."

Growing up in Berryville, Va., Schein began taking riding lessons at age 7. Her earliest exposure to racing was through her maternal grandfather, Howard Owens, and his son Frank Owens, her mother's twin brother. Howard owned a few horses who raced primarily at Charles Town. Frank was an avid fan and handicapper who took his niece on her first trip to a racetrack to watch the Preakness two weeks after Fusaichi Pegasus won the Derby.

"He taught me everything he knew about horse racing," Schein said.

At a young age, Schein knew what to look for in the paddock and how to read a *Racing Form*. But he would always admonish her – usually on his way to the pari-mutuel windows – not to spend her money betting.

In 2004 Schein, then 15, was boarding her Morgan-cross at a farm near her home in Berryville. Her "riding buddy" was the mother of one of her school friends. Also boarded there at that time was a 6-year-old mare named Melind's Adam, owned by Judy Mayes. By leading West Virginia sire My Boy Adam out of the Aye's Turn mare Melinda's Turn, she had last raced at Charles Town Feb. 1 for trainer Titus Hagy. All 27 of the mare's starts came at the West Virginia track, where she had won three times.

"They had offered Melind for sale," Schein said, "and my mom and the friend I was riding with bought her together

in partnership, potentially to breed her. They bought her in May."

Tragedy struck the family two months later when Frank Owens was killed.

"When he passed, it became much more urgent," Schein said. "This horse was something he had become excited about. So that night, we decided she would be bred and we would name the foal for him."

In early 2005, Melind's Adam was sent to Northview Stallion Station in Maryland and bred to multiple graded stakes winner Domestic Dispute, then standing his first year at stud and a horse Schein and her uncle followed during his racing career.

On April 23, 2006, Melind's Adam delivered a chestnut filly at Schein's parents' home. In another tribute to her late brother, Schein's mother operated her Thoroughbred business as Lost Twin Farm. She named the new foal All About Frank, with plans to race her in his honor.

"She was so chill," Schein said of the foal. "Just unflappable and so nice to be around."

Misfortune struck again just shy of the filly's second birthday when she passed away after a paddock accident.

"It was pretty rough," Schein said.

Melind's Adam paid a return visit to Domestic Dispute in 2008, producing a colt in 2009. In 2011, Schein's mother transferred ownership of both horses to her daughter.

"Just like the filly had been, he was also really lovely to be around. He was never registered; my parents had kind of lost interest. I was still young and didn't really have a lot of money, but I did keep him and tried to start him on my own. I ended up selling him to an event trainer in Maryland. He was younger and had the better chance of having a good career. She resold him as a trail horse, and he found a very good home as a pleasure horse. And I just couldn't part with my girl."

She still hasn't. Now a nurse living in Loganville, Ga., Schein took Melind's Adam with her when she relocated five years ago. She was determined to give the mare the retirement she deserved.

"Once I got settled down here, I found this barn in Loganville and it was a really good fit, so I made the arrangements and got her trailered down. When I bought my house, it just so happened that it ended up being .9 miles from where she is. It's so nice. . . I can see her whenever I want."

Now 25, Melind's Adam – called simply "Melind" – isn't asked to do too much. . . "but she would, because she's in incredible shape," Schein said. Schein hopes she'll have time for a bit of light riding now that her own children are getting older and more independent. She'd be even happier if her kids developed an interest in riding and could enjoy that time with her.

"I fell in love with Melind the second I met her. She had two foals with me and was an incredible mother, but mostly she was my best friend. She has been there through every important moment of my life. . ."

– Carrie Schein

The mare is a favorite among fellow boarders at the farm where she's regularly spoiled with soft peppermints, her favorite treat.

"She gets a massive bucket of them every Christmas," Schein laughed.

She readily admits that her mare "wasn't much of a racehorse" – she earned $34,121 from her 27 starts with three wins, two seconds and two thirds.

But more important to Schein is that connection to her late uncle, who dreamed for so many years of having a racehorse. It was something his niece hoped to share with him. Schein remembers clearly one of the last things Frank Owens told her. After watching the 2004 Wood Memorial from Aqueduct, he said to keep an eye on the winner, a gray colt named Tapit.

"That horse," he told her, "is a really good one."

That remains one of Schein's favorite memories of a day at the races with Owens. He had recently taken out his owner's license, a badge Schein treasures.

"I fell in love with Melind the second I met her," Schein said. "She had two foals with me and was an incredible mother, but mostly she was my best friend. She has been there through every important moment in my life, both good and bad." ■

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Take care of the horses as best you can for as long as you can. Always. Every day. All the time.

If you need a mission statement for a Thoroughbred racing stable, racetrack, breeding farm, van company, auction company, sales consignor, veterinary practice or any other sliver of the sport that touches horses, that's pretty much it. Write it down, put it on a poster over the barn door, screen print it on a T-shirt, tattoo it on your forearm, I don't care. But if you're involved in racing and responsible for the care of racehorses, future racehorses or former racehorses, that mantra needs to be the bedrock of what you do and how you act.

Racing people know all this, but we really don't matter. Outsiders – fans, bettors, casual observers – matter and they've never seemed so important.

In business circles, experts refer to the social license to operate a company or an industry. Put simply, it is the acceptance of standard practices and procedures by employees, stakeholders and the general public. One way or another, all businesses have social licenses. They just matter more for some businesses.

Racing's is a monster. The social license to breed, raise, train, buy, sell and race horses forms the sport's very foundation. Without it, there is no sport. Read that again if you want. If employees, stakeholders and – most impor-

— From the editor —

By Joe Clancy

You ready to defend racing?

tantly – the public don't accept the way we (because this is on all of us) care for the horses, Thoroughbred racing will cease to exist.

That's right, like any license the social one can be lost.

In five weeks this spring, a dozen horses died at Churchill Downs including two on Kentucky Derby Day. In response, Churchill moved the rest of its meet to Ellis Park even if finding a common factor among the deaths proved to be difficult. At Pimlico Race Course on Preakness Day, Havnameltdown fractured his left front leg while moving toward the front in the Chick Lang Stakes. The heavy favorite stumbled, sent jockey Luis Saez to the dirt, and ran another furlong before being caught by an outrider, examined by veterinarians and humanely euthanized on the track. I watched, winced and thought about the people most involved – groom, vets, outrider, Saez, horse ambulance driver, whoever took off Havnameltdown's bridle.

Pretty quickly, my thoughts turned to a version of those words at the top of this column, racing's social license and the pressure it would face.

Preakness weekend marked the return of Havnameltdown's trainer Bob Baffert to the Triple Crown stage after missing the 2022 races and the 2023 Kentucky Derby due to suspensions by Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Racing Commission. Baffert's 2021 Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit and 2020 Kentucky Oaks runner Gamine were disqualified for testing above the limit for the permitted medication betamethasone, two violations among several in the previous two years. The Hall of Famer served his suspensions, upheld by appeals, and started four horses over two days at Pimlico. Friday, Faiza finished third in the Black-Eyed Susan. Saturday, Arabian Lion won the Sir Barton and National Treasure won the Preakness. Havnameltdown died. Several media platforms broadcast it all. And racing felt it.

When facing criticism, racing people always default to how well taken care of the horses are and how much they are loved – hay, straw, mints, toys, oats, hugs, all kinds of therapies, sports medicine, diagnostics, turnout, training options and progress, progress, progress.

We leave out the parts about inadequate regulations, aggressive trainers, results-above-all-else owners, cheaters caught by the FBI and private investigators (not the sport's regulatory bodies), screwy decision-making at multiple levels, runaway claiming rules, lawsuits over potentially game-changing federal legislation, resistance to safer racing surfaces, rules violations that take months (years really) to be adjudicated and all the rest of this mish-mashed sport.

None of this should fall on one individual, one entity or some subset of the Thoroughbred world. It's a racing problem that will take all of us to overcome or at least counteract. At every level, people in racing mean well and do noble work. All the progress – nationally, racing fatalities continue to decline – matters.

But Havnameltdown died in a race, held during a concert with a window-rattling bass line, in front of a half-condemned building owned by a company that can't find a reliable narrative about the future of racing in the state, for a trainer coming off a two-year ban from the Triple Crown, while people in suits and frilly hats sipped expensive drinks. At best, the scene strained credibility. At worst..?

Go ahead, tell everyone how loved the horses are again – just be prepared to defend yourself. ■

Declaration Day

NATIONAL TREASURE LANDS MIDDLE JEWEL OF TRIPLE CROWN

By Tom Law

Tom Ryan gathered the troops outside Bridie Harrison's consignment on the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales grounds, ready to tackle short lists and plot a game plan for final looks at potential buys out of the sale of selected yearlings.

The "Avengers," as they're dubbed for reasons not clear beyond the fact they joined together to purchase top-dollar racing prospects in recent years, met with even more purpose on this morning with Bob Baffert in town. The silver-haired Hall of Fame trainer was in upstate New York from Southern California to go over potential buys with Ryan, Donato Lanni and other representatives of some of American racing's most successful operations.

The group, which included agent John Moynihan representing Stonestreet Stables, found a colt they liked in Harrison's consignment in Hip 13. The son of Quality Road out of a winless mare by Medaglia d'Oro "was a horse that met all the criteria immediately," Ryan said.

"Donato loved the horse," Ryan said, "John Moynihan loved the horse."

Harrison, selling the colt already named National Treasure for longtime client and breeder Peter Blum, also "figured he was their type of horse."

"And really we were hoping he would suit them as much as we thought he would," said Harrison, whose association with Blum goes back four decades and also includes selling Horse of the Year and Kentucky Derby-G1 and Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 winner Authentic for the successful commercial breeder.

After bringing Baffert to see the colt, Ryan and Lanni weren't so sure they'd end up being in the hunt for what they thought might be one of the jewels of the sale.

"We brought Bob to see the horse and he literally took one glance and walked away," Ryan said almost a year later. "He doesn't like him."

Harrison confirmed the tale, refuting any notion of revisionist history or a fish story of the equine kind.

"He walked off, that's exactly what he did," said Harrison, who took Baffert's move as a positive. "I guess he knew he wanted the horse . . . that's when we knew they were on the horse. [Baffert] doesn't have a lot of time and doesn't go over a lot of the horses. They'll have a group of horses for him to look at, come up with a list and then take him to go see them.

"That's the thing about Saratoga; every single person that is there is going to wind up looking at every single horse on the grounds. Either the buyers themselves or their agents. They're all going to come look . . . But with [National Treasure], he liked him. And they have bought other horses from us and done quite well, so we felt good."

There were other prospects they liked among the almost 200 yearlings in the tight-quartered barns under the Elm and Maple trees on the historic sales grounds. So the group moved on, on the hunt to find some more. Baffert didn't play his hand in front of Harrison and her team, but didn't hold back to Ryan, Lanni and Moynihan.

"I love him," he said.

The group showed that love an hour into the opening session and bought National Treasure for $500,000, the first of

National Treasure (blue shadow roll) cuts the corner ahead of Blazing Sevens in the Preakness Stakes.

> "He was always the best horse on the farm. And Tom Ryan knew that, too, that he was the best horse on the farm that year. Even before we went to Saratoga, we knew he was the best."
>
> *– Bridie Harrison, who raised and sold the Preakness winner for breeder Peter Blum*

five purchases for $2,045,000 secured by Lanni as agent for SF Racing, Starlight Racing and Madaket Stables over the two-day sale. National Treasure wound up the second most expensive of the five, behind eventual stakes-placed maiden winner Massimo at $575,000, but ascended to the top of that group and the class of American 3-year-olds with a determined victory in the 148th running of the $1.65 million Preakness Stakes-G1 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore May 20.

Receiving a textbook Hall of Fame ride from John Velazquez, National Treasure seized the lead from the start, dictated the terms almost the entire 1 3/16 miles around Pimlico's main track and fended off a stiff challenge from Grade 1 winner Blazing Sevens in deep stretch. National Treasure won by a head as the 5-2 second choice in the field of seven, with Kentucky Derby-G1 winner and 7-5 favorite Mage another non-threatening 2¼ lengths back. National Treasure won in 1:55.12 for his first Grade 1 victory and second tally overall from six starts for SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Robert "Bat" Masterson, Stonestreet Stables, Jay Schoenfarber, Waves Edge Capital and Catherine Donovan.

Velazquez completed a personal Triple Crown with his first Preakness victory, adding racing's second jewel to other classic wins aboard Animal Kingdom, Always Dreaming and Authentic in the Kentucky Derby and on Rags to Riches and Union Rags in the Belmont Stakes-G1. He also rode Medina Spirit to victory in the 2021 Kentucky Derby, only to be disqualified when the colt (who died after training that December) failed a post-race drug test. In response to that, and another positive with Gamine after the 2020 Kentucky Oaks-G1, Churchill Downs banned Baffert from participating at its tracks through the 2023 Derby. Baffert tried legal challenges, served a 90-day suspension from the Kentucky Racing Commission and did not participate in a Triple Crown race in 2022.

Baffert became the all-time leading Preakness trainer with his eighth victory. Five of his other Preakness wins came with Kentucky Derby winners – including eventual Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify.

"You can't do it without the group of owners that I have that have stuck by me through all this . . . bad stuff that's happened to me in the last few years," Baffert said. "They're loyal. They stuck with me, and I give them all the credit. They give me the ammo."

National Treasure's victory came hours after Baffert and his team weathered racing's highs and lows, with the drama unfolding in real time – for the trainer and racing.

Two horses died on Derby Day at Churchill Downs, part of a spate of fatalities at the Kentucky track this spring that would ultimately halt racing early and move remaining dates to Ellis Park. Derby hopeful Wild On Ice was among the deaths at Churchill, and the track endured five scratches in its signature event (including morning-line favorite Forte, scratched by regulatory veterinarians for a bruised hoof) after entries were taken. For a while, the list of troubles seemed to grow by the day with the pending implementation of the national Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority rules hanging over it all.

The tumbler had still more for Baffert, and the sport.

Baffert's Preakness Weekend started with Faiza's first defeat as the odds-on favorite in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 May 19. The stable rebounded when the highly regarded Arabian Lion – campaigned by Medina Spirit's owner, Amr Zedan's Zedan Racing Stable – won the Sir Barton Stakes on the Preakness undercard.

Two races after the Sir Barton, Baffert looked poised to add another Pimlico victory with Havnameltdown in the Chick Lang Stakes-G3 going 6 furlongs. Sent off as the 4-5 favorite in the field of seven in his first start in almost three months after a trip to Saudi Arabia, Havnameltdown broke a step slow under Luis Saez and quickly recovered to engage Ryvit up the backstretch. The son of Uncaptured rolled up to Ryvit around the turn but suffered a fractured left front fetlock injury and unseated Saez.

Owned by longtime Baffert clients Mike Pegram, Karl Watson and Paul Weitman, Havnameltdown was euthanized on the track.

Baffert, with his wife Jill, Lanni and others, watched the Chick Lang on a television from Pimlico's indoor paddock.

JIM MCCUE

Trainer Bob Baffert and his wife Jill center the National Treasure connections on the winner's stand after the Preakness.

The trainer left the area immediately after Havnameltdown's injury, and waited in the stakes barn as the day ticked down to the Preakness amid the steady beat of the infield music festival.

Some 5½ hours later, Baffert and his team took in the Preakness from a similar spot in the paddock. He called out the early splits to his assembled group as National Treasure took the lead from his inside post. Velazquez stayed well off the fence past the finish post the first time and into the first turn, getting away with an opening quarter-mile in :23.95 and a length in front of Maryland-bred and -based longshot Coffeewithchris. Blazing Sevens and Irad Ortiz Jr. raced in third around the far turn with Javier Castellano content to keep Mage behind the top three while more toward the rail.

"Forty-nine," Baffert said as Velazquez kept a tight hold on National Treasure heading into the backstretch, an easy 1½ lengths clear of Coffeewithchris after the actual split in a moderate :48.92.

National Treasure hadn't led early in any of his last four starts – all two-turn graded stakes – and Velazquez said it wasn't necessarily "a plan" to be in front but if anyone else wanted the lead they were going to have to work for it.

"I [wanted] to get him a really good rhythm, and I knew it wasn't a lot of speed, but I saw Irad warming up his horse, and I knew he was going to put pressure to the other horse with a little bit of speed," Velazquez said. "That's why when I broke . . . I went toward the middle of the track to make sure I put him over there and if they want to go any faster, let them go in front. Just a little strategy. If it works, it works."

National Treasure continued through 6 furlongs in 1:13.49 before Ortiz had seen enough and engaged the leader aboard Blazing Sevens on the far turn. He drew even with National Treasure in the lane, with Mage not threatening from third and Coffeewithchris and Red Route One backpedaling after trying to make the race on the backstretch.

National Treasure surrendered the lead briefly before Velazquez straightened the bay colt inside the sixteenth pole to repel Blazing Sevens and win by a head. Mage's third made it five consecutive years without a Triple Crown on the line in the Belmont Stakes June 10. Red Route One finished fourth

JIM MCCUE

National Treasure stretches his legs during Preakness Week at Pimlico.

with Chase the Chaos, Perform and Coffeewithchris completing the field, reduced to seven after the scratch of Stonestreet Lexington Stakes-G3 winner First Mission.

Baffert, tears in his eyes behind his trademark blue sunglasses, let out a few relieved screams of "yes, yes, yes," as National Treasure hit the finish and spun toward the winner's circle looking for his equally teary-eyed wife Jill. He praised her in the post-race press conference, saying he "couldn't have done it without" her support, and heaped plenty on Velazquez.

Baffert and Velazquez have teamed the last few winters during the Santa Anita Park meeting for major stakes victories, and they were together for Authentic's scores in the Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic in 2020. The trainer downplayed the complicated narrative of the win being a save-the-day moment following Havnameltdown's breakdown or the issues that have plagued him and racing since Medina Spirit.

"To me, this means more for Johnny getting his Preakness win," said Baffert. ". . . I was just hoping that this horse could win for the group and for Johnny. When he hit the wire, I think my emotions were – and my wife – what we've been through, for the day been through, it would have been so nice without that happening. But we grieve. I'm still grieving about it. We're still sad about that horse, and we will be for a while. It just put a little moment of spark into our lives."

National Treasure provided a spark to Harrison and her team that includes her husband Tommy and sons Jonathan and Daniel at Hurricane Place Farm just outside Cynthiana, Ky., and about a 45-minute drive to the center of Lexington.

A sixth-generation homebred, National Treasure traces back to Blum's foundation mare Mono, a daughter of Better Self from the King Ranch breeding program purchased at Keeneland January in 1975. National Treasure is the fourth foal out of the Medaglia d'Oro mare Treasure, who is out of the Blum-bred stakes-placed winner and $115,021-earner Proposal. That Mt. Livermore mare is out of the Storm Bird mare Lady of Choice, who was produced by the Secretariat mare Chosen Lady who sold as an 11-year-old in foal to Danzig for $1.85 million at the 1998 Keeneland November sale.

Chosen Lady produced Grade 1 winner Well Chosen, Grade 3 winner In Contention and other winners for Blum before she sold. She's out of the winning Florida-bred mare Mine Only, a daughter of Mr. Prospector and Mono, who

won for Blum and the late Hall of Fame trainer H. Allen Jerkens in the mid-1980s.

Harrison's familiarity with each of those generations runs deep and she knew National Treasure was a star from the start.

"We foaled him and raised him the whole time," Harrison said. "He was always the best horse on the farm. And Tom Ryan knew that, too, that he was the best horse on the farm that year. Even before we went to Saratoga, we knew he was the best."

National Treasure wound up in Harrison's Saratoga consignment for Blum after Fasig-Tipton's inspection team led by Boyd Browning Jr. made its way to Cynthiana in the spring of 2021. Blum's 2021 yearling crop also included another colt by Quality Road, a bay out of the stakes-winning Unbridled's Song mare Inspired, and the Fasig-Tipton team liked both during the inspection.

"When Boyd and them came to the farm they were looking at the two horses, back and forth, back and forth; one, then the other," Harrison said. "After a few days, and I'm sure they were going to think about it, they called and said they wanted him. We only wanted to take one Quality Road to Saratoga, so we sent him there and the other went to Keeneland."

Lanni, bidding for the SF Racing, Starlight and Madaket group, liked the other Quality Road, too, and bought him out of the Keeneland September sale for $650,000. The colt's name was Driver's Seat when he went through the ring, but was later changed to Carmel Road. He went 1-1-1 in five starts for the same ownership group that won the Preakness, earning a placing in the Grade 2 Los Alamitos Futurity, before being sold for $260,000 this spring at the Keeneland April horses of racing age sale.

National Treasure improved to 2-1-2 from six starts and picked up $990,000 for the win, raising his bankroll to $1,335,000 before his run in the Belmont Stakes.

"He's a horse that's always been . . . he won early, and he showed us there he was a nice horse, but we knew that he needed distance," Baffert said. "It just took him awhile. He hasn't really filled out into his frame, but we could tell [the way] he's been working. His last few works were really strong, and he was working like a really good horse." ■

Fair Shake

CLAIMED FOR $50,000, TAXED ROLLS TO BLACK-EYED SUSAN WIN FOR KENTUCKY CONNECTIONS

By Tom Law

JIM MCCUE

In a not-too-uncommon conversation, trainer Randy Morse and owner Richard Bahde discussed a potential claim toward the end of the Churchill Downs fall meet four days before Thanksgiving last year.

"I was looking for something and Randy brought my attention to her," Bahde said. "We talked about it for a while. I hadn't seen her myself, he was just explaining everything he could and answering all my questions."

Bahde, a resident of Omaha, Neb., and a Morse client for the better part of 15 years, liked everything he heard about a daughter of Collected who had finished off the board in two starts on the Kentucky circuit. With one caveat.

"I've only got one question," Bahde said. "Is she gray?"

Morse confirmed the filly, named Taxed and entered for her third start in a $50,000 maiden claimer going a mile, indeed met Bahde's criteria.

"Let's drop the claim," Bahde told Morse. "I love grays."

Morse and Bahde won a three-way shake for Taxed, who won for owners NET Racing, Michael Dubb, First Row Partners and Team Hanley and trainer Matt Shirer.

Morse identified Taxed after she finished seventh in a 1-mile maiden special weight in mid-September at Churchill and then sixth, after opening a 2-length lead on the backstretch, in a similar 1⅛-mile maiden a month later at Keeneland Race Course.

"I'm lucky to have him," Morse said of Bahde. "He's been a good client for a long time. He trusts my opinion and in this day and age that means something."

Morse's opinion was validated in the $300,000 George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 May 19 at Pimlico Race Course, where Taxed circled the leaders around the far turn on the way to her first graded stakes victory. Under Rafael Bejarano, Taxed won the 9-furlong Black-Eyed Susan by 3¾ lengths over Hoosier Philly to lead a 1-2 finish by fillies excluded from the Longines Kentucky Oaks-G1 two weeks prior.

"I am absolutely over the moon, I can tell you that," Bahde said after collecting the Black-Eyed Susan hardware from the infield stand. "I liked the way she won, too, there was no question about that."

Bahde called the Black-Eyed Susan, Taxed's first victory in five starts since the claim, his biggest win in more than 30 years as an owner.

"I had never won a graded stakes before," Bahde said. "I've been graded-stakes placed a number of times but never won

Trainer Randy Morse (right) heads to Pimlico's infield winner's circle with Taxed and jockey Rafael Bejarano after the Black-Eyed Susan.

one. Certainly not a spring classic like this. So, I'd say this is No. 1."

Morse put it right up with Moonshine Mullin's score in the Grade 1 Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill Downs in 2014, the most recent graded stakes victory for the Kentucky-based horseman.

"Even if it's a claiming race, a win's a win," Morse said. "It's hard to compete with these guys who spend millions and millions of dollars with young horses. I'm not knocking them, I'd like to be in their position but when you only get a handful of horses, most of the time all I've been able to do is claim. Most of my better horses have been claims."

Taxed put her name in the mix for claim of the year in the Black-Eyed Susan, which was supposed to be a layup for Southern California shipper Faiza.

Unbeaten in five starts for Bob Baffert – and held out of the Kentucky Oaks because of Churchill's two-year ban on the Hall of Fame trainer – Faiza came in off convincing wins in the Santa Ysabel Stakes-G3 and Santa Anita Oaks-G2 this spring. Bettors hammered the daughter of Girvin, purchased by Marylander Michael Lund Petersen for $725,000 at the same Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale of 2-year-olds that produced Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage, down to 3-5 in a field of nine.

"I had never won a graded stakes before. I've been graded-stakes placed a number of times but never won one. Certainly not a spring classic like this. So, I'd say this is No. 1."

– Owner Richard Bahde, about winning the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes

Owner Richard Bahde (center, black cowboy hat) enjoys a moment in the infield winner's circle after the Grade 2 stakes win.

Hoosier Philly, who like Taxed didn't earn enough points for an automatic entry in the Kentucky Oaks, took the initiative early with Sacred Wish, Merlazza, Faiza and Comparative not far behind. Taxed raced sixth, less than 4 lengths back through the opening half-mile in :47.24.

Bejarano kept close tabs on Faiza most of the way. Racing without blinkers for the second consecutive start after Morse removed them before her second to Wet Paint in the Fantasy Stakes-G2 April 1 at Oaklawn Park, Taxed made a wide run around the far turn before reaching contention at the top of the stretch.

"I followed the favorite, came to the stretch and let her out," Bejarano said. "My horse responded really good and she finished really well. She has improved a lot and was better than the last time."

Taxed engaged Hoosier Philly inside the eighth pole before wresting the lead from that rival with a sixteenth to run as Faiza settled for third.

Hoosier Philly's trainer Tom Amoss watched from the clubhouse boxes and thought the daughter of Into Mischief might reward his faith dating back to last summer.

"When he turned for home and peeked over his shoulder, I got that feeling that you can't buy," Amoss said. "I thought we were going to win. There were a lot of things going through my mind and they were all positive. Until about the eighth pole. We just had one that was better than us today. I'm happy for Randy Morse. He's a great trainer and I'm proud that he got to win the race."

Morse prepped Taxed for her spring campaign at his usual wintertime base at Oaklawn. She finished fourth in the Year's End Stakes on New Year's Eve in Hot Springs before finishing behind eventual Kentucky Oaks favorite Wet Paint in the Martha Washington (second), Honeybee-G3 (ninth) and Fantasy.

Taxed ended the run-up to the Oaks with 48 points – the same as last year's champion 2-year-old filly Wonder Wheel – but wound up one spot away from drawing into the race. Morse and Bahde set their sights for Pimlico.

"We wanted to run there, we were 15 and ironically seven fall out of the Derby," Bahde said of the record number of scratches for the run for the roses. "We figured we might get one out of the Oaks and we'd be in, but we didn't and as it turns out the 14-hole wins that race. But I'm very happy with this."

Bred by former Kentucky Gov. Brereton Jones, Taxed is the fourth foal out of the multiple stakes-placed Yankee Gentleman mare Yankee Union. A half-sister to two winners when she sold for $27,000 at the 2021 Keeneland September yearling sale and now three winners, Taxed later sold for $105,000 at the 2022 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s March sale. Taxed is also a half-sister to 2-year-old Preservationist colt In a Jam, a yearling filly by American Freedom and a weanling filly by Complexity, all bred by Jones and by stallions who stand at his Airdrie Stud in Midway, Ky.

Taxed earned $180,000 and improved to 2-2-0 in eight starts with $379,644, with all but $40,206 coming after the claim that certainly looks like a bargain.

"Oh, you know, the way these purses are nowadays, $50,000's really not that much money," Morse said.

– Additional reporting by Joe Clancy

2023 COLONIAL DOWNS STAKES SCHEDULE

Stakes Closing Saturday, July 1

7/15/23 **The Edward P. Evans** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Punch Line** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Tyson Gilpin** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Brookmeade** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One-Sixteenth(Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 7

7/22/23 **The Van Clief** - $150,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/22/23 **The Andy Guest** - $150,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 14

7/29/23 **The Housebuster Overnight Handicap** - $100,000
3 Year Olds, Seven Furlongs

Stakes Closing Friday, July 21

8/5/23 **The Hickory Tree** VA Restricted - $150,000
2 Year Olds, Five Furlongs

8/5/23 **The Keswick** VA Restricted - $150,000
Fillies 2 Year Olds, Five Furlongs

8/12/23 **The Secretariat** - Grade II - $500,000
3 Year Olds, One Mile (Turf)

8/12/23 **The Beverly D.** - Grade I - $500,000
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And Three Sixteenths (Turf)

8/12/23 **The Arlington Million** - Grade I - $1,000,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One Quarter (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 28

8/11/23 **The Randolph D. Rouse Steeplechase**
Filly/Mare Hurdle Stakes - $75,000
Fillies and Mares, 4 Year Olds and Upward, Two Miles And One Quarter

Stakes Closing Friday, August 18

9/2/23 **The Meadow Stable** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
3 Year Olds and Upward Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Camptown** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Bert Allen** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund). 3 Year Olds and Upward One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Nellie Mae Cox** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Jamestown** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
2 Year Olds, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, August 25

9/8/23 **The Life's Illusion Steeplechase** - $75,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Two Miles (Hurdle)

9/9/23 **The Colonial Cup** - $150,000.
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One Half (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Exacta Systems Rosie's** - $125,000
2 Year Olds, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Da Hoss** - $150,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Kitten's Joy** - $125,000
2 Year Olds, One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/9/23 **The New Kent County Virginia Derby** - Grade III - $500,000
3 Year Olds, One Mile And One Eighth (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Virginia Oaks** - Listed - $250,000
Fillies 3 Year Olds, One Mile And One Eighth (Turf)

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Jamming

RATTLE N ROLL CAPTURES PIMLICO SPECIAL FOR MCPEEK

By Joe Clancy

After winning the Pimlico Special-G3 with Rattle N Roll on the Black-Eyed Susan Day undercard at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course May 19, trainer Kenny McPeek gave the 86-year-old race its due.

"It means a lot," he said of the win. "I've seen so many really good horses win here. The Pimlico Special has been historically one of the greatest races in America. We'd love to see it a Grade 1 again, but we've got to sort of lift the sport up a bit. The older horse division, you never can tell where everybody's going but maybe he'll justify raising the grade."

Owned by Lucky Seven Stable via a $210,000 Keeneland September purchase by McPeek, Rattle N Roll did his part – digging in late to catch Speed Bias in the final yards and win by a nose as the even-money favorite for jockey Flavien Prat. A Grade 1 winner as a 2-year-old in 2021, the Connect colt won his seventh race and fourth graded stakes while pushing his career earnings to $1,365,861. Two weeks later, he strengthened the case with a triumph in the $225,000 Blame Stakes-G3 at Churchill Downs.

While he may not be in the league of early winners War Admiral, Seabiscuit and Challedon – or even more recent Horses of the Year Cigar, Skip Away and Invasor (Arg) – Rattle N Roll has found his niche as a 4-year-old after a 10-start campaign in 2022.

The chestnut couldn't get past top 3-year-olds Epicenter, Zandon and Cyberknife last year so took the back roads to victories in the American, St. Louis and Oklahoma Derbies (the latter a Grade 3) in the second half of the year. Unraced for more than four months, Rattle N Roll returned with a fourth in the New Orleans Classic-G2 in March and then won Keeneland's Ben Ali-G3 at the Special's 1 3/16 miles April 22. Maryland wasn't necessarily Plan A, but McPeek got some input from the Pimlico stakes coordinator and loved another chance to run a major race around two turns.

"Eleanor Albert gave me the probables and . . . at a mile-and-three-sixteenths it didn't look like a race we should probably pass," the trainer said. "It looked like a race we should probably go for and we had the team to come up here. I wouldn't take this horse off a two-turn regime for the world of me. I don't think that's going to do anything but confuse him. He knows what to do."

That wasn't always the case. In his second start, at Saratoga in 2021, Rattle N Roll was bumped leaving the gate, lugged out on the first turn and bolted to the outside fence on the second turn before being pulled up. McPeek doesn't want to see that again – ever – so runs his charge in a Houghton bit, which features a metal piece under the jaw to help with steering.

"We started using it on him because we didn't want that happening again and he kept winning in it," said McPeek. "It's a cage bit . . . he likes it and he's happy."

Hometown Win for Hamilton

Marylander Anthony Hamilton once spent his Preakness Days in the "free-for-all" atmosphere of the Pimlico infield thanks at least in part to his stepfather, Maryland Jockey Club photographer Jim McCue.

"He used to come home with a stack of about 35 complimentary infield passes and I think I was the most popular guy in high school for that week," said Hamilton. "You just went

JIM DULEY

On the rise with three graded stakes wins this year, 4-year-old millionaire Rattle N Roll (left) gets up in the final inches to win the Pimlico Special by a nose over Speed Bias.

out there and laid a blanket out. It was a lot of fun. I didn't even think about something like this. No. That was impossible to see."

It's all a little different now as the Dulaney High graduate, assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey, saw the 2023 Preakness Day from a different vantage point. The McGaughey barn finished sixth with Perform in the big one, but landed the Dinner Party Stakes-G3 with Never Explain early on the card. Making his stakes debut off two wins at Tampa Bay Downs this winter, the Courtlandt Farms 5-year-old won a stretch scramble while setting a course record 1:46.14 for 1⅛ miles on the turf. Favorite Hurricane Dream (Fr) finished a half-length behind in second, a head in front of Emmanuel, who had a neck on Speaking Scout with another neck back to Atone in fifth.

"The Pimlico Special has been historically one of the greatest races in America. We'd love to see it a Grade 1 again, but we've got to sort of lift the sport up a bit."

– Trainer Kenny McPeek

Never Explain (left) wins a battle in the Dinner Party Stakes for trainer Shug McGaughey and assistant Anthony Hamilton.

JIM DULEY

Beer Can Man hustles to victory in the 5-furlong Jim McKay Turf Sprint, his first win since November 2021.

The 15-1 shot's performance didn't surprise Hamilton.

"He earned his way into a race like that, he's been a little strong and keen and took awhile to figure it out," he said. "You know Shug – allowance, allowance, allowance, waiting for him to kind of switch off in his races. Flavien [Prat] got him in behind horses and he just switched off. That's kind of what we've been waiting to see from him. Everything about it is patience, and we're lucky we have owners who are patient. You get results like this when you're patient."

Hamilton spent the week working, of course, but also found time for family.

"My mom [Betty McCue] cooked every night, my son [Hughes] won a leadline pony race so that was a big deal," he said. "It's nice to come home and win a race because I know they're so proud. It means something, it means a lot, especially with a guy like Shug. It's only three years but it feels like we've been through a lot in these three years. It's a good place to be."

Blinkers Matter

A few minutes after even-money favorite Nagirroc ran away with the James W. Murphy Stakes, a team of owners traded hugs and high-fives, Maryland-based trainer Graham Motion gave a television interview and one of the victory's real keys – exercise rider Emma Cary – thought about the 3-year-old's development and her suggestion to add blinkers.

"He breezed one breeze with a horse who is really not as good as he is," she said of a Fair Hill Training Center move in April. "We were going head-to-head and he kind of just lost focus and was looking at the other horse. The other horse outbreezed him and I remember saying that blinkers might do the trick."

The next breeze, blinkers on, produced a new Nagirroc.

"At the end of the breeze I was standing up – at the wire – I couldn't hold him," Cary said, "so they did their job."

Nagirroc, far more relaxed in the new equipment since, has done his job as well – winning for the third time since joining the Motion barn for owners Little Red Feather Racing, Madaket Stables and William Strauss last summer.

Second in his debut for trainer and co-owner Jimmy Corrigan (where Nagirroc gets his name) at Horseshoe Indianapolis last summer, the son of Lea joined his new connections in time for a maiden win at Aqueduct in September. The Kentucky-bred followed with a win in Aqueduct's Futurity Stakes-G3 and then a longshot third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1 before another third in Santa Anita's Eddie Logan in December.

Rested until April, Nagirroc finished second in Keeneland's Transylvania-G3 before the Pimlico score – accomplished with an inside trip despite breaking from the outside post in a field of nine for Prat, who was seeking his fifth stakes win of the weekend. The winner found room at the three-eighths pole, extended the advantage in mid-stretch and won by 3¼ while setting a course record of 1:33.11 for a mile on the turf.

"I'm very proud of him," said Cary. "The blinkers seem like they just help him focus in the morning and in the race."

Saturday Extras

Little Red Feather and Madaket teamed up (along with Sterling Stables) with Beer Can Man to win the Jim McKay

Turf Sprint. The 5-furlong race took all of :55.56, but patience was the theme afterward as Beer Can Man won for the first time since November 2021 after missing more than a year with an injury.

"He had a little injury that took a long time to recover from," said Little Red Feather's Billy Koch. "To come here on a big day at Pimlico was really special. I'm so proud of him. It took a lot to come back from a layoff like that."

Now trained by Phil D'Amato, the 5-year-old Can the Man gelding won three races in 2020 and three more (including the Turf Monster-G3 at Parx) in 2021. Beer Can Man made two starts in early 2022, but spent 14 months away from the races before returning with a fifth at Keeneland in April. That proved to be the perfect tightener for Pimlico as Beer Can Man ousted Nothing Better by a neck with favorite Coppola third.

California-based sprinter Straight No Chaser blasted eight rivals in the Maryland Sprint Stakes-G3 by speeding to the front for John Velazquez and widening at every call to triumph by 7½ lengths over Prevalence with Nakatomi third in 1:08.27.

Trained by Dan Blacker for MyRacehorse, the 4-year-old won for the fourth time in seven starts and continued a progression from rapid 2-year-old to top-class sprinter.

"He came from the 2-year-old sale where they jazz them up a little bit and when we first started off he was tough to gallop," said Blacker. "He wanted to go one pace, like flat out. He's gotten much more mature, much more straightforward to be around. He's shipped for two races now and done really well. It kind of shows, sometimes you've got to be a little patient. Luckily I've got great owners that were allowing me to be patient and give him time to kind of mature."

NOTES: Trainer Ignacio Correas IV, who was the private trainer for Maryland's Sagamore Farm for several years, sent **Cheetara (Chi)** from his Kentucky base to pull a 17-1 upset in the Skipat Stakes on Saturday's card. Owned by Stud Los Leones, the 6-year-old Daddy Long Legs mare won for the eighth time including three in her native Chile . . . Monmouth Park-based trainer Kelly Breen won Friday's $100,000 The Very One Stakes with **Train to Artemus,** a $35,000 claim last year at Saratoga. The 5-year-old Tapizar mare won twice in 2022 for Breen and owner M and W Stables and collected her third score of this year over Spicy Marg with Maryland-bred Spun Glass third . . . Trainer Chad Brown won Friday's Hilltop Stakes with Ran Jan Racing's homebred 3-year-old filly **Aspray**, who rallied from almost 12 lengths down to win the 1-mile turf stakes for Prat . . . Last year's Black-Eyed Susan winner **Interstatedaydream** lived up to her 4-5 favoritism in Friday's Allaire duPont Distaff, winning an early pace battle and seeing out a half-length win over Misty Veil for Flurry Racing Stables. Brad Cox trained the winner, perfect in two starts at Pimlico and a five-time winner of $604,069 . . . New York-bred **Maple Leaf Mel** ran her record to 4-for-4 with a win in Friday's Miss Preakness-G3 for football Hall of Famer Bill Parcells' August Dawn Farm and trainer Jeremiah Englehart. The 1½-length win, while geared down, was impressive enough but made an impact beyond the racetrack thanks to a connection to namesake, Englehart assistant and cancer survivor Mel Giddings. "I actually thought it was a joke, Maple Leaf and Mel," Giddings said of Parcells' name for the Cross Traffic filly. "I know I'm Canadian and everything. It's pretty clever of him, he's got some sayings. I can't tell you how many people have run up to me and said, 'I feel you. I've had this happen to me or their family.' It's nice, they have a horse to look up to." Parcells paid $150,000 for Maple Leaf Mel at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale last year. She won twice at Saratoga in 2022 and opened 2023 with a New York-bred stakes victory at Aqueduct in March. The Miss Preakness was her first start in open company . . . Saturday's stakes lineup began with a win by Zedan Racing Stable's **Arabian Lion** for Preakness winners Bob Baffert and John Velazquez in the Sir Barton. The 2-5 shot won by 4 lengths while up front throughout . . . Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt's **Ryvit** won Saturday's Chick Lang-G3 for trainer Steve Asmussen, who gave a leg up to Tyler Gaffalione after son Keith Asmussen (aboard for the horse's three previous starts, all wins) broke a finger two days earlier. Ryvit was part of a pace duel through the early stages, assumed a clear lead when Havnameltdown was injured near the three-eighths pole and won by 1¾ lengths . . . Juddmonte homebred **Whitebeam (GB)** landed Saturday's Gallorette-G3 for trainer Chad Brown and jockey Irad Ortiz Jr., storming home by 2½ lengths over Sopran Basilea (Ire) and Bipartisanship (GB) . . . Hall of Famer **John Velazquez** rode four winners on Preakness Day – allowance victor Amani's Image, stakes winners Arabian Lion and Straight No Chaser and Preakness winner National Treasure . . . Repole Stables' **Be Better** earned retirement for life at an Old Friends Thoroughbred retirement farm with a win in the second race on Preakness Day for trainer Brittany Russell. Named the Old Friends Purse and presented by Josephine Abercrombie, the optional claimer offered the winner a spot at an Old Friends facility upon retirement. Be Better can join fellow "Old Friends for Life" Next Shares, Kalamos and Get Western (winners of the Old Friends Stakes at Kentucky Downs). ■

Star of the Show

ARROGATE FILLY GETS ATTENTION, TOP BID AT TIMONIUM

By Joe Clancy ■ *Fasig-Tipton Photos*

As Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale ticked down to its final 40 or so horses May 23, staffers at the Hartley/De Renzo consignment hustled to put the finishing touches on Hip 552. The chestnut filly stood like a statue as eight people – one on the shank, one with a hoof pick, one with a body brush and five with phones catching photos or video – flashed around her.

The daughter of Arrogate shined in the afternoon sun outside Barn A just beyond the backdoor of the sales pavilion. Her mane laid flat and to the right. Ears up, eyes bright, she waited for her next task.

"Let's go," encouraged the bosses as the photo/video/primp session extended a beat too long. The filly did the rest. With Randy Hartley and Dean De Renzo standing in opposite doorways to the ring, bids flew for less than three minutes, hesitated at $950,000 and stopped – finally – at $1 million to top the two-day sale of racing prospects at Timonium, Md. Agent Kerri Radcliffe made the winning bid for the Kentucky-bred, a $255,000 purchase as a yearling eight months earlier at Keeneland September.

Hartley and De Renzo, and all those team-members, celebrated in different ways afterward – with high-fives, handshakes, backslaps, compliments, sighs of relief, even a bad habit or two.

"Thirty-two years I've been doing this and I still get as nervous as I did the first year," said De Renzo. "I'm on my last cigarette. We bought her beautiful so it's really just her."

And some dedicated people.

"You can see the way she looks that they take such good care of her," Hartley said with a nod to his crew. "You're only as good as your team and the horses sense everything that we sense. Everything transitions over."

Bred by Dale Taylor (a fixture in New Mexico racing) and sold as a yearling by Paramount Sales, the filly is out of the Mutakddim mare Twixy, a winner and producer of four winners including stakes winner Twixy Roll. The female pedigree goes to Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 winner Caleb's Posse among others, but the sales-topper was always about more than bloodlines.

Midlantic May
TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING
Midlantic May
TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAININ
FAIZA
552

Consignors Randy Hartley (left) and Dean De Renzo watch the action from the back ring at Timonium.

"We bought her in Book 1 and she looked just like she looks now – she's the same filly, just bigger," said Hartley. "Book 1 is a hard book at Keeneland. It's all about the top pedigrees and stuff. I think the big pedigree people just didn't get on her. When we saw her, she was just a filly we had to have."

Despite the price tag at Keeneland, she turned into a big pinhook for Hartley/De Renzo, which topped the sale for the third time in seven years. A 10-second furlong breeze at Timonium helped, as did size, scope, demeanor and the opportunity to buy a filly by Arrogate. Champion 3-year-old of 2016, the son of Unbridled's Song won seven of 11

PINHOOKERS' SCORECARD

Horses who sold for $200,000 or more, and exceeded their previous auction selling prices by at least $100,000:

$1,000,000 ch.f. Arrogate—Twixy, by Mutakddim. ***kee sept 22 $255,000***
$800,000 gr./ro.f. Mendelssohn—Lady Hansen, by Hansen. ***kee sept 22 $125,000***
$700,000 b.c. Awesome Slew—Cash Reserve, by Distorted Humor. ***obs oct 22 $150,000***
$510,000 dk.b./br.f. Take Charge Indy—Perfect Paula, by Songandaprayer. ***kee nov 21 $100,000***
$500,000 gr./ro.c. Not This Time—Goodness Unbridled, by Unbridled's Song. ***kee sept 22 $260,000***
$485,000 b.f. Twirling Candy—Meetmeonline, by Line of David. ***kee jan 22 $160,000***
$450,000 dk.b./br.f. Gun Runner—Rocky Policy, by Rock Slide. ***ftn aug 22 $175,000***
$450,000 ch.c. Maclean's Music—Martini, by Yes It's True. ***kee sept 22 $275,000***
$400,000 b.c. Justify—My Fast One, by Elusive Quality. ***ftk oct 22 $175,000***
$385,000 b.f. Vino Rosso—Qualkris, by Malibu Moon. ***obs oct 22 $70,000***
$375,000 dk.b./br.c. Uncle Mo—Magical Mood (GB), by Forestry. ***obs apr 23 $225,000***
$350,000 ch.f. Carpe Diem—Secret Wonder, by Quality Road. ***obs oct 22 $30,000***
$325,000 ch.c. Catalina Cruiser—Wicked Speed, by Macho Uno. ***kee sept 22 $70,000***
$325,000 gr./ro.c. Nyquist—Raffle Ticket, by A.P. Indy. ***ftn aug 22 $210,000***
$310,000 ch.f. Mitole—Wake Me Up, by Act of War. ***kee nov 21 $67,000***
$300,000 b.c. Uncle Mo—Wilshewed, by Carson City. ***ftk oct 22 $190,000***
$290,000 ch.f. Solomini—Sweet Queen, by Twirling Candy. ***ftn oct 21 $30,000***
$280,000 b.c. Maximus Mischief—Perfect Bourbon, by Majesticperfection. ***kee jan 22 $35,000***
$260,000 b.f. City of Light—Fly to the Stars, by Giant's Causeway. ***kee sept 22 $130,000***
$250,000 b.f. Congrats—Racyn With Gracyn, by Victory Gallop. ***kee sept 22 $50,000***
$250,000 b.c. Maximus Mischief—Daddy's Diva, by Scat Daddy. ***ftm oct 22 $72,000***
$250,000 gr./ro.c. Creative Cause—Acenda, by Latent Heat. ***ftk oct 22 $90,000***
$250,000 b.c. Goldencents—Glorious Hour, by Bodemeister. ***kee sept 22 $140,000***
$240,000 b.c. Twirling Candy—Lady Mamba, by War Front. ***kee sept 22 $65,000***
$230,000 b.f. Mitole—Nora's Joy, by Street Sense. ***kee sept 22 $90,000***
$225,000 b.c. Midshipman—Kipling's Joy, by Kipling. ***ftn aug 22 $57,000***
$225,000 b.f. Constitution—Real Sister, by Into Mischief. ***ftk july 22 $80,000***
$200,000 dk.b./br.c. World of Trouble—Indian Splendor, by Indian Ocean. ***ftk oct 22 $42,000***
$200,000 gr./ro.c. Blame—Corsage, by Exchange Rate. ***kee sept 22 $50,000***

Buyer Kerri Radcliffe checks on the sales-topper.

"We bought her in Book 1 and she looked just like she looks now – she's the same filly, just bigger. Book 1 is a hard book at Keeneland. It's all about the top pedigrees and stuff. I think the big pedigree people just didn't get on her. When we saw her, she was just a filly we had to have."

– Consignor Randy Hartley, about buying the sales-topper as a yearling

starts including the Grade 1 Travers Stakes, Breeders' Cup Classic and Dubai World Cup before being retired by owner Juddmonte Farm after a racing career of less than 19 months. After just three seasons at stud, he died in 2020. His foals, the last of which are 2-year-olds, include Grade 1 winners Secret Oath, Cave Rock, And Tell Me Nolies and Fun to Dream.

"It's such a great loss to our industry," Hartley said of Arrogate. "We waited all these years to get an Unbridled's Song stallion and we finally get one and he's gone. This is it. I'm going to try to buy every Arrogate filly I can because I think he's going to be a great broodmare sire."

SALES LEADERS

Fillies

$1,000,000. Ch.f. Arrogate—Twixy, by Mutakddim (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Kerri Radcliffe, agt.

$800,000. Gr./ro.f. Mendelssohn—Lady Hansen, by Hansen (Ky.); Paul Sharp Agent I; Speedway Stables.

$625,000. B.f. Uncle Mo—Gabriellestoblame, by Blame (Fla.); Pick View, agt.; Solis/Litt.

$510,000. Dk.b./br.f. Take Charge Indy—Perfect Paula, by Songandaprayer (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; Gus King. Jeff Mackor, agt.

$485,000. B.f. Twirling Candy—Meetmeonline, by Line of David (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; Maverick Racing and Siena Farm.

$450,000. Dk.b./br.f. Gun Runner—Rocky Policy, by Rock Slide (N.Y.); De Meric Sales, agt.; Flurry Racing Stables.

$385,000. B.f. Vino Rosso—Qualkris, by Malibu Moon (Ky.); Tom McCrocklin Agent I; Team Hanley and 30 Year Farm.

$350,000. Ch.f. Carpe Diem—Secret Wonder, by Quality Road (N.Y.); Grassroots Training And Sales, agt.; Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agt.

$350,000. Ch.f. Vino Rosso—Lunar Gaze, by Malibu Moon (N.Y.); Sequel Bloodstock Agent II; Repole Stable, West Bloodstock, agt.

$310,000. Ch.f. Mitole—Wake Me Up, by Act of War (Ky.); SBM Training and Sales, agt.; Robert E. and Lawana Low, West Bloodstock, agt.

$300,000. Dk.b./br.f. Uncle Mo—Susie's Baby, by Giant's Causeway (Ky.); Wavertree Stables Inc. (Ciaran Dunne) Agent XII; John Guarnere.

Colts

$700,000. B.c. Awesome Slew—Cash Reserve, by Distorted Humor (Fla.); Tom McCrocklin Agent XVII; Maverick Racing/ Siena Farm/ Commonwealth.

$600,000. Ch.c. Tapit—Lady Pewitt, by Orientate (Ky.); Julie Davies, agt.; Steven W. Young, agt.

$500,000. Gr./ro.c. Not This Time—Goodness Unbridled, by Unbridled's Song (Ky.); Pick View, agt.; Speedway Stables.

$450,000. Ch.c. Maclean's Music—Martini, by Yes It's True (Md.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Legion Bloodstock, agt.

$425,000. Ch.c. Omaha Beach—Catch My Fancy, by Yes It's True (Ky.); Wavertree Stables Inc. (Ciaran Dunne) Agent IV; Saints Or Sinners and Muir Hut Stables.

$400,000. B.c. Justify—My Fast One, by Elusive Quality (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Tom Durant.

$375,000. Dk.b./br.c. Uncle Mo—Magical Mood (GB), by Forestry (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Mark Davis, Steve Rothblum, agt.

$350,000. Dk.b./br.c. Liam's Map—Darby Blush, by Arch (N.Y.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne) Agent XIV; Kerri Radcliffe, agt.

$325,000. Ch.c. Catalina Cruiser—Wicked Speed, by Macho Uno (Ky.); LG, agt.; Gus King, Jeff Mackor, agt.

$325,000. Gr./ro.c. Nyquist—Raffle Ticket, by A.P. Indy (Ky.); Pick View, agt.; Donato Lanni, agt.

$320,000. Ch.c. Lookin At Lucky—Caribbean Lady, by Speightstown (N.Y.); Top Line Sales Agent III; West Point Thoroughbreds, L.E.B., agt.

$300,000. B.c. Into Mischief—Song to the Moon, by Successful Appeal (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; OGMA Investments/ Marquee Bloodstock, agt.

$300,000. B.c. Uncle Mo—Wilshewed, by Carson City (Ky.); Scanlon Training & Sales Agent X; Krattiger Racing, Destin Heath, agt.

"We brought a nice group up here and they've been very well received. We're happy that the market's got some bounce to it. It's one of the best sales in the middle that we've seen in a few years. It's great to see some depth to the market."

– Consignor Tristan de Meric

Radcliffe, who bought three horses at the sale, singled out the Arrogate filly.

"To me, she was the star of the sale," the buyer said. "I saw her in January, I saw her in March, I saw her in April. I didn't know I was going to have to pay that much for her. It was a strong sale. The good horses are making the money. She went :10 and change, out in :23 and change. It doesn't get much better than that. She's the last of the Arrogates so it's good to get her."

For Hartley, Timonium offered another chance to shine at a favorite venue. He galloped horses at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course for trainer Bill Donovan years ago and thinks of Timonium every time he enters his office back home in Florida – where an old Barn A sign proudly hangs.

"We go a long way back with Maryland; it's always been a special place to us," he said, rattling off Donovan-trained star Dash for Dotty among others. "This sale has been good to us too. At the top end, it's a riskier market and we always try to play at that level, but she's stunning. At the beginning of [2022], we said that we were going to be buying fillies because we felt like that was a safer market and we ended up buying one filly because they were just hard to buy. She was the right one."

The Arrogate filly displaced the longtime leader from the first session, an $800,000 Mendelssohn filly sold by Paul Sharp to Speedway Stables. Hip 245 breezed in :10.1 and carried a female family tracing to champion De La Rose among others. Dam Lady Hansen sold for $250,000 as a Saratoga yearling, won, placed in a stakes and produced Japanese winner Shiroi Toiki.

Sharp and Liz Crow purchased the gray filly for $125,000 at Keeneland September, and drew comparisons to former pupil Hard Not to Like, who went on to earn $1.2 million and win three Grade 1 stakes.

"She just had a very similar training style and demeanor, all of it," said Sharp. "Attitude and body language are what I saw first when we looked at her as a yearling. She was just

THE NUMBERS

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2023	2022
Offered	437	482
Sold	375	391
Not sold	14.2%	18.9%
Gross	$34,795,500	$37,297,700
Average	$92,788 (-2.7%)	$95,391
Median	$50,000	$47,000

LEADING BUYERS

Kerri Radcliffe, agt. (3)	$1,520,000
Speedway Stables (2)	1,300,000
West Bloodstock, agt. (3)	845,000
Jeff Mackor, agt. (2)	835,000
Donato Lanni, agt. (3)	825,000
Legion Bloodstock, agt. (6)	755,000
Maverick Racing/Siena Farm/Commonwealth (1)	700,000
Mark Glatt, agt. (3)	690,000
Steven W. Young, agt. (2)	670,000
Solis/Litt (1)	625,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Uncle Mo (9)	$2,126,000
Mendelssohn (6)	1,285,000
Maximus Mischief (12)	1,248,000
Vino Rosso (11)	1,200,000
Into Mischief (5)	1,128,000
Mitole (11)	1,082,000
Twirling Candy (8)	1,068,000
Tapit (3)	1,050,000
Arrogate (1)	1,000,000
Omaha Beach (8)	977,000

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Tapit (3)	$350,000
Justify (3)	240,000
Uncle Mo (9)	236,222
Into Mischief (5)	225,600
Mendelssohn (6)	214,167
Gun Runner (3)	190,000
Not This Time (5)	177,000
Liam's Map (3)	175,000
Speightstown (3)	171,667
Lookin At Lucky (3)	137,333

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

De Meric Sales (21)	$2,854,000
Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds (5)	2,425,000
Pick View (13)	2,227,000
Wavertree Stables (15)	2,191,000
Tom McCrocklin (27)	2,144,000
Paul Sharp (16)	1,683,000
Kings Equine (24)	1,641,000
Grassroots Training and Sales (29)	1,635,000
Top Line Sales (19)	1,552,500
Cary Frommer (17)	1,476,000

Average (3 or more sold)

Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds (5)	$485,000
Pick View (13)	171,308
Wavertree Stables (15)	146,067
Sequel Bloodstock (9)	145,222
SGV Thoroughbreds (5)	143,000
Woodford Thoroughbreds (5)	137,400
De Meric Sales (21)	135,905
James Layden (5)	128,400
Randy Miles (5)	124,500
LG (6)	111,167

a real classy, athletic filly and trained really well for us this year. She really got hold of the dirt at home and I made the decision to bring her here because I really wanted people to see her on the dirt, to see that she might be a versatile horse."

Business Report

Overall, gross receipts from the sale decreased from 2022 but it was not difficult to see why. Last year, a $3.55 million colt topped the sale and sent the gross to $37,297,700 on 391 horses sold. This year, that $1 million filly led the way as the gross reached $34,795,500 on 375. The lower price at the top did little to affect other numbers as the average declined slightly to $92,788 and the median climbed slightly to $50,000.

"That's kind of what we were missing this year," said Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett of the 2022 sales-topper. "We came very close to being the same [by gross] so we're very happy. The buyers came from all over. Every year we see newer buyers and that's very rewarding. People know you get runners and we proved that the first Saturday in May at Churchill. It's very exciting for this sale to have the success on the track that we're seeing."

Bennett touched on it, but Fasig-Tipton went out of its way to celebrate the Kentucky Derby-G1 win by 2022 Timonium graduate Mage with banners, signs, a quickly made silks plaque for the pavilion and an overall feeling of achievement.

"It was thrilling for the people involved, it was a great story, a feel-good thing all the way around," Bennett said. "For the people owning that horse I'm sure they believed in their horse but there were so many others. He was part of the Derby field and was like the little engine that could and just didn't give up. It was fun. We're a team, it's not just Midlantic, it's the whole company that plays such a big part of all of our successes and we all share them."

Fasig-Tipton added a second 2-year-old sale to its Timonium calendar June 28, which took some pressure off the Timonium stable area and created an opportunity for horses otherwise excluded from the rising tide of the May sale. The catalog included 91 horses, and Bennett hoped for a solid first step while also knowing the new date was not going to rival May.

"Because we turn horses away from the May sale, people were like, 'We'll target June,' " she said of the idea. "We'll get some regional sires and then some horses who just needed more time by the national sires. We're hoping it can build a little steam and go on. It's a sale people asked for last year because they like the dirt surface and want to sell off the dirt surface. We put it on the calendar and we're hoping we can make it successful and have people realize they need to think about it."

THOROSTRIDE, INC.

Bred in Maryland by Barak Farm, a $450,000 Maclean's Music colt out of Martini led the way among Mid-Atlantic-bred 2-year-olds at the sale. Legion Bloodstock purchased the $275,000 yearling pinhook from Hartley De Renzo.

Sales Report

De Meric Sales, which sold all 21 horses in its consignment, led the way with $2,854,000 in receipts, topped by a $510,000 Take Charge Indy filly purchased by Jeff Mackor, agent for Gus King, and three others at $300,000 or more.

"It's been a great sale," said Tristan De Meric late into the second day. "We brought a nice group up here and they've been very well received. We're happy that the market's got some bounce to it. It's one of the best sales in the middle that we've seen in a few years. It's great to see some depth to the market. Fasig-Tipton always does a great job bringing a lot of buyers and we're lucky we have some horses people wanted."

The Take Charge Indy filly, a full-sister to Grade 3 winner Take Charge Paula, cost De Meric client Tami Bobo $100,000 as a weanling at Keeneland November in 2021.

Speedy workouts on Timonium's track always matter at the May sale, but De Meric made sure to credit the mental side of the horses too.

"If they can't stand still when you're showing them out here in front of the barn [buyers] are going to pass them by," he said. "It doesn't matter how fast they breeze, they have to be good level-headed horses too. We try to help them be that way, we try to lean toward those horses when we buy them and we have people come by the farm to look at horses and

Tristan de Meric steered the de Meric Sales consignment to the top of the leaderboard with all 21 horses sold for $2,854,000.

we do little run-throughs ourselves but it's nothing like at the sale."

Agent Clay Scherer bought a New York-bred Gun Runner filly from De Meric, spending $450,000 on behalf of Flurry Racing Stables. The filly out of Rock Slide's stakes-winning daughter Rocky Policy will go to trainer Brad Cox, with high hopes.

"She's a very athletic filly who had an exceptional work here and Gun Runner's one of the hottest stallions in North America right now," Scherer said. "I'm looking forward to having her up and ready to run at Saratoga hopefully."

Scherer came to Timonium hoping to buy three horses, but left with one thanks to the competition.

"That's how it goes sometimes," he said. "I love coming here. In the last few years, it's turned out some great horses out there running and doing well. Kudos to Fasig-Tipton and their crew. You sell horses like Gamine, Faiza, Mage, Morello, a lot of good horses, and those are just the last few years, people will show up and better horses will follow."

■ Hartley/De Renzo sold the top regional-bred, a $450,000 Maryland-bred Maclean's Music colt out of the Yes It's True mare Martini. Legion Bloodstock landed the colt, a full-brother to regional stakes winner Dirty. The colt cost $275,000 at Keeneland September after bringing $130,000 for his breeder Barak Farm at Keeneland January.

"When I first saw him I told Dean we had to buy him," Hartley said of the September purchase. "We paid good money

Ten-year figures for 2-year-old sale

Year	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2023	$34,795,500	$92,788	375	14.2	$1,000,000, ch.f. Arrogate—Twixy, by Mutakddim; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Kerri Radcliffe, agent.
2022	$37,297,700	$95,391	391	18.9	$3,550,000* Hejazi, dk.b./br.c. Bernardini—G Note, by Medaglia d'Oro; consigned by Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent; purchased by Zedan Racing, Gary Young, agent.
2021	$33,692,000	$94,375	357	16.2	$1,500,000 Vinco, dk.b./br.c. Quality Road—Stormy Welcome, by Storm Cat; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent X; purchased by West Point Thoroughbreds/L.E.B., agent.
2020	$23,572,500	$77,797	303	19.2	$1,100,000 Shaaz, dk.b./br.c. Uncle Mo—Miss Ocean City, by Mineshaft; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent.
2019	$29,374,000	$90,104	326	23.3	$1,800,000 Gamine, b.f. Into Mischief—Peggy Jane, by Kafwain; consigned by Bobby Dodd, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent.
2018	$24,868,500	$74,680	333	22.6	$1,200,000 Lebron J, b.c. Medaglia d'Oro—Tapicat, by Tapit; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Dennis O'Neill.
2017	$25,237,000	$76,476	330	19.9	$1,500,000 Curlin's Honor, ch.c. Curlin—Franscat, by Stormin Fever; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Breeze Easy and John C. Oxley
2016	$23,136,400	$68,654	337	25.9	$1,000,000 Modest Maven, dk.b./br.f. Uncle Mo—Dream Street, by Tale of the Cat; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Chester Broman, Linda Rice, agent.
2015	$22,659,000	$88,859	255	21.5	$1,250,000 Garnet, b.f. Smart Strike—Crystal Current, by A.P. Indy; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXIX; purchased by Ben McElroy, agent.
2014	$19,601,000	$59,578	329	23.5	$520,000 Old Mountain Lane, b.c. War Front—Judy's Magic, by Wavering Monarch; consigned by Eisaman Equine, agent; purchased by Steven W. Young, agent.

** The highest-priced horse sold at public auction in Maryland.*

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales director Paget Bennett had plenty to smile about, thanks to 2022 graduate Mage's win in the Kentucky Derby and a solid 2023 renewal of the May sale.

for him. He was a later [May 20] foal, I didn't know he was a Maryland-bred when I bought him, but when I saw it was like, 'We'll go to Maryland with him.' We gave him plenty of time to grow. He's a beautiful animal. Even if they don't get bought by somebody from Maryland they get pushed along here."

■ Marylander Michael Lund Petersen frequently purchases at the high-end at Timonium via agent Donato Lanni, but was happy to be somewhere further down the list with a $350,000 Carpe Diem filly purchased from Grassroots Training and Sales. Bred in New York by JD Business Ventures, Bushy Hill Stable and Carpe Diem Syndicate, the filly sold for $17,000 as a weanling and $30,000 as a yearling before landing the six-figure price tag at Timonium. The chestnut filly will head to California trainer Bob Baffert, while looking to emulate Petersen purchases Gamine, Faiza, Mucho Gusto and others.

Petersen attended the breeze shows with Lanni, and tried to play along when it came to eyeballing prospects.

"When I spend this much money, I'm trying to pay attention," Petersen said. "I still have tons to learn. I think she's stunningly beautiful. I saw her run. I think 10 and 1, straight into the wind. She's fast. This is the least expensive horse I've ever bought here and when [Lanni] says she's a freak, I listen. I don't know what it is he sees, but he's been pretty good at picking them." ■

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All Grown Up

MAGE SHINES IN DERBY FOR SEQUEL BLOODSTOCK, TIMONIUM SALE

By Joe Clancy

The team at Florida's Sequel Bloodstock sticks to a routine when it comes to preparing 2-year-olds for the sales and/or racetrack. The horses circle the shedrow at a walk and stop to have their legs checked. Riders get legged up next and, once everyone is mounted up, the group heads to the track for training.

Only not so much with a chestnut colt last year.

"He was a Dennis the Menace type," said Sequel's Becky Thomas. "He was absolutely very playful, not bad. I had my very best rider on him every day and I always legged him up last so he could go straight to the track and wasn't bouncing around the shedrow deciding what he could get into."

He was a Good Magic colt purchased for $235,000 at Keeneland September as a potential pinhook for Sequel. Everybody called the Kentucky-bred "Puca" for his dam, a stakes-winning daughter of Big Brown, and fought the urge to use different nicknames thanks to that mischievous behavior. "Puca" dropped riders, harassed grooms and made Thomas change her pre-gallop schedule.

"He was never, ever mean but he was opportunistic," said Thomas, who handed her charge to groom Thabani Nzimande and exercise rider Oscar Brown. "He was always on his toes, always a playful dude. We check legs, then we mount up, but 'Puca' did it differently. None of the other riders were anything but happy when he became Oscar's mount."

And, of course, everybody was happy when "Puca" – better known as Mage – won the Kentucky Derby-G1 at Churchill Downs May 6. Sold for $290,000 by Sequel at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale (Hip 592 if you want to check your catalog notes) in Timonium, Md., Mage came into the Derby with a single win – his debut a Gulfstream Park in January. Second in the Florida Derby-G1 in April, he rallied from 16th in a field of 18 to win by a length at 15-1 for OGMA Investments, Ramiro Restrepo, Sterling Racing and Commonwealth Racing. The Derby win was a first for the ownership group, trainer Gustavo Delgado and jockey Javier Castellano.

For Thomas and longtime Sequel partner Lewis Lakin, plus newer pinhooking partner Joey Platt, the win was a milestone and then some.

"Everything you ever hope to do is to be able to have good horses. We obviously want to sell well, but we want our horses to win and to win the Kentucky Derby is pretty dang special for our whole team," she said. "It was really fun. Of course, everybody says, 'Then why did you sell him?' but if we knew that we wouldn't do any of this."

The Derby win was a first for Fasig-Tipton's regional division too, and only further cemented the May sale's position in the 2-year-old market. Two days after the Derby, a dozen red roses showed up at the Fasig-Tipton office in Fair Hill, Md., courtesy of company president and CEO Boyd Browning Jr.

"It was thrilling for the people involved, it was a great story, a feel-good thing all the way around," said Paget Bennett, the Midlantic division's sales director. "We're a team, it's not just Midlantic, it's the whole company that plays such a big part of all of our successes and we all share them."

Mage, a graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale, powers home with a Kentucky Derby win.

Other Regional Ties

Mage wasn't the only horse with a Mid-Atlantic connection to make the Triple Crown scene.

Pennsylvania-bred Angel of Empire started as the 4-1 Derby favorite and finished third while gaining ground late. Bred by Christian Black's Forgotten Land Development and Black Diamond Equine, the Classic Empire colt was raised at Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove and sold for $70,000 as a Keeneland September yearling in 2021. Trained by Brad Cox for Albaugh Family Stables, the bay colt came into the Derby off wins in the Risen Star-G2 and Arkansas Derby-G1 and was gaining on Mage late while beaten 1½ lengths.

Black was there and was thrilled to be in with a shout as the field rolled through the stretch.

"Having the favorite is probably one thing but having a horse that's competitive and looking like he would have a good chance coming down the stretch is something else," he said. "We were pretty excited about it. We were in a good box at the eighth pole. We were yelling a little bit."

Black paid full credit to Mage and co-owner Restrepo, Fasig-Tipton's South Florida field representative in addition to his work as a bloodstock agent.

"If somebody was going to beat me it's OK that it was Ramiro," Black said. "He's a good friend of mine."

At the Preakness two weeks later, Mage finished third in a field that included Pennsylvania-bred Chase the Chaos (who finished fifth) and Maryland-bred Coffeewithchris (seventh). Bred by Dale Krapf and Betsy Barr, Chase the Chaos sold for $10,000 as a weanling in 2020. For owners Adam Ference and

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Jockey Javier Castellano and Mage head for the winner's circle after the Derby win.

Bill Dory, the Astern (Aus) gelding won twice in 2022 and captured the El Camino Real Derby at Golden Gate Fields in California in February, which gave him a "Win and You're In" for the Preakness.

Barr and Krapf, who race flat and steeplechase horses as Turks Head Turf, bought Chase the Chaos' dam Live the Moment for $10,000 at Keeneland November in 2019 while she was carrying the future Preakness starter. After not getting in foal in 2020, the daughter of Uncle Mo went back into training and won a Charles Town maiden claimer for trainer Paul McEntee in March 2021. Bred to Take Charge Indy, she sold for $20,000 at Keeneland November 2021.

Barr and Krapf, who own a small broodmare band based at their farm on Ryan Road just outside Unionville, root for Chase the Chaos and the other charges to make the races. Recent successes have also come from fellow 3-year-olds Theseguysgotgame and Lord of the Navy, each a two-time winner at Parx Racing this year. Theseguysgotgame ran third in the Danzig Stakes June 2 at Penn National.

"That 2020 crop was the first crop of foals born at the farm and to have horses like this is pretty exciting," said Barr, who got help with the foaling from daughters Elizabeth and Anne Barr. "The goal is to have the best mares we can afford to have, try to sell Pennsylvania-bred babies. The program is getting a lot of visibility right now. We think it's great and we'll keep going."

Bred by Tom Rooney and foaled at his family's Shamrock Farm, Coffeewithchris sold for $2,000 as a yearling in 2021 and has gone on to win three times and earn $225,600 for Fred Wasserloos, Anthony Geruso and trainer John Salzman Jr. For more, see the *Maryland Horse* section.

■

Keystone Kid

ARCANGELO FOLLOWS PENNSYLVANIA PATH TO BELMONT STAKES TRIUMPH

By Joe Clancy

The four exclamation points are pretty telling, but Clovis Crane just stated an opinion when he sent a simple text message to Jon Ebbert a little before 1 p.m. Sept. 18, 2021.

"Your Arrogate is beautiful!!!!"

Ebbert had just spent $35,000 on a yearling at Keeneland September, and tempered Crane's enthusiasm with a four-message reply.

"Haha . . . For the price . . . Thanks . . . Going to run him."

Crane doubled down.

"No; I'm not joking. That horse is beautiful."

Almost 21 months later, that Arrogate colt – Arcangelo to the world – proved Crane and Ebbert right when he won the Belmont Stakes-G1 at New York's Belmont Park June 10.

As he charged down the stretch of the $1.5 million race, Jena Antonucci made history as the first woman to win a Triple Crown race as a trainer. but the Kentucky-bred's victory carried a little Mid-Atlantic flavor too.

Ebbert lives near Allentown, Pa., and traces his interest in racing to trips to Parx Racing in Pennsylvania and Monmouth Park in New Jersey. Crane bases his breaking/training/pinhooking business at his farm in Lebanon, Pa., where Arcangelo spent six months after the sale taking his first steps toward becoming a racehorse.

It started at Keeneland.

"He was a beautiful horse, his physical was fabulous, he was just real immature and looked like he was going through a growth spurt," said Crane, who looked at Hip 1182 as a pinhooking prospect. The former jockey turned trainer scours yearling sales looking for horses to prep and sell as 2-year-olds and rates horses based on appearance.

"Horses I want to buy, I'll mark a five," he said. "Horses I really want I'll mark a five plus. Horses I want to make a hard try on get a six. Anything beyond that I just can't afford, generally."

On his iPad catalog, Crane gave the Arrogate colt a six while putting him on his short list – adding "great walk, long pasterns, small and immature." A veterinary report pointed out some sesamoiditis, combining with that immaturity to squash Crane's pinhooking hopes as those prospects need to be ready to sell by spring. The colt (actually a ridgling) would need patience and, as it turned out, Ebbert had plenty of that. Buying independently from the back ring, he spent the $35,000 and figured any veterinary issues could be sorted out with time.

"I really liked the horse and I wasn't even there to buy him," said Ebbert, a real-estate developer who turned 40 three days after the win. "I was looking for one horse, a pinhook horse, but when I saw him I couldn't let him go. There was something about him that just stuck. I knew he was a project. I knew he was going to have to grow."

The X-ray issues, that immaturity and – at the time – Arrogate's early stallion returns kept the final price in Ebbert's budget. A champion and earner of $17.4 million in his short racing career, Arrogate entered stud in 2019 so his first foals were 2-year-olds at the time of the sale. He sired zero winners before the catalog printed, two by the time Arcangelo stepped into the ring. Arrogate died in 2020, but his runners now

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Prepped in Pennsylvania as a yearling and 2-year-old, Arcangelo stays clear of a crowd of pursuers near the finish line of the Belmont Stakes.

ANNISE MONTPLAISIR

Owner Jon Ebbert hoists the Belmont trophy alongside Jena Antonucci, the first woman trainer to win a Triple Crown race, and jockey Javier Castellano.

include Grade 1 winners Secret Oath, Cave Rock, And Tell Me Nolies, Fun to Dream – and Arcangelo.

The future Belmont winner's female family offered a little foreshadowing as third dam Better Than Honour produced Belmont winners Rags to Riches and Jazil in addition to Peter Pan winner Casino Drive and Breeders' Cup Marathon winner Man of Iron.

After signing the ticket Ebbert consulted Crane, who replied with that catalog screen shot and a "6 is an extremely high mark." The Arrogate colt headed to Lebanon. Like the 200 or so others who pass through Crane Thoroughbreds on the way to auction rings or racetracks each year, he followed a well-worn schedule. It starts with 60 days of work in paddocks/round pens, on the small racetrack built into a hill and in the big indoor arena. Next comes 60 days of turnout, weather be damned. Then, in the new year, it's more serious 2-year-old work. Training or not, every horse spends an hour on a free walker. Turnout means six or seven hours a day, every day.

"It's a little tough sometimes but I think it's important," Crane said. "Another horse raised another way might have a tighter coat than they do when they leave us, but that can be a hot-house situation. That's not what's best for the horse. I want those horses moving, I want them to have good immune systems, I want them to experience things. They're learning how to deal with the world and not just be greenhouse flowers."

The farm blooms with equines – racehorses, future racehorses, ex-racehorses, riding horses, projects, ponies, even a donkey or two – and Arcangelo fit right in. He outgrew the issues, filled into his frame, turned into "a handful" in the stall and on the track.

Crane has a February 2022 video of Arcangelo cantering loops in the indoor with another horse. The future Belmont winner lopes along with his neck bowed, alternating from the inside path to the outside with his training partner. Outside, Crane remembered, it was sleeting. Inside, horses, riders and

trainer were dry and jamming to the Harrisburg, Pa., band Fuel's "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)." The song is a long way from "New York, New York" but every experience was a step closer to Belmont Day.

"He was always a great mover," Crane said. "If we were in dressage land, he would have been wonderful. He always flicked his front legs out in front of him and did everything you wanted. He just needed to grow up."

Crane liked what he saw so much he tried to buy into the horse. Ebbert said no and stuck to the racing plan. He'd met Antonucci and business partner Katie Miranda at that same Keeneland September sale and just felt comfortable with them. A $100,000 Classic Empire colt, also purchased there, went to Antonucci first (and had lost all eight starts through June 12).

"I didn't want to just put him in anybody's hands, I went with Jena and the rest is history," said Ebbert, who previously had horses with Steve Rowan, Corey Day, Doug O'Neill, among others. "I told her I was in no rush and to take her time. I thought I had a really nice horse. I believed in him. You're definitely not always right, but I couldn't be happier with the way he grew and matured. He did it quicker than I thought he would."

Ebbert said Arcangelo added 100 pounds to his frame since the December debut at Gulfstream Park. Second there, he finished fourth in his 3-year-old debut going a mile Jan. 14. Future Louisiana Derby-G2 winner Kingsbarns won that, and Arcangelo graduated going a mile March 18. He stayed in Florida until late April before heading to New York for Belmont's Peter Pan Stakes-G3 May 13 and prevailed by a head over Bishops Bay to set up the Belmont Stakes try four weeks later.

Following a path worn by Tonalist (2014), A.P. Indy (1992), Coastal (1979) and others, Arcangelo won the Belmont over eight rivals – five coming out of the Kentucky Derby-G1 or Preakness Stakes-G1.

Sent off as the 8-1 fifth choice, he broke well from post three and somewhat reluctantly let jockey Javier Castellano restrain him along the rail as Tapit Shoes and Preakness winner National Treasure went to the front early. Sixth after a half-mile in :47.69 (more than a second faster than the Preakness split), Arcangelo came off the rail to get outside Tapit Shoes as National Treasure built a 1-length lead. Fourth after 6 furlongs in 1:12.56 (still faster than the Preakness pace), Arcangelo went between Tapit Shoes and Hit Show as Castellano glanced right twice to assess his rivals.

Heavy hitters Angel of Empire, Forte and Tapit Trice were there, working up bids. The winner made the first move, advancing to second but staying inside as the others ranged up wide. Late on the turn, National Treasure came under pressure and came off the rail. Arcangelo rolled alongside, took the lead at the top of the stretch and saw it out from there. Favorite Forte, who couldn't keep pace on the turn, rallied late in the stretch to claim second – 1½ lengths behind the winner who covered 1½ miles in 2:29.23. Tapit Trice finished a nose back in third while Hit Show and Pennsylvania-bred Angel of Empire dead-heated for fourth.

> "It doesn't have to work out. Everybody knows that in racing. You could still do all this, do everything right and still not win. I feel like we did everything perfect, and he got a place to run in the stretch and he won the race. It's an amazing ride when you stop and think about it."
>
> *– Owner Jon Ebbert*

Ebbert, Antonucci and company were overjoyed – the Fox TV cameras captured it all – as they won a classic over some of the biggest names in racing.

"It was just meant to be," Ebbert said two days after the win. "It doesn't have to work out. Everybody knows that in racing. You could still do all this, do everything right and still not win. I feel like we did everything perfect, and he got a place to run in the stretch and he won the race. It's an amazing ride when you stop and think about it."

Crane didn't watch the race live. True to form, he was at Cowtown Rodeo aboard a bucking horse as Arcangelo made history.

"The kids had a youth rodeo, we left that and went to Cowtown and the Belmont actually happened while I was riding," he said. "I watched the replay and was proud of him. We break 200 plus a year and it's our job to make sure that when the horses leave here they're ready to go be whatever they can be. Some do well, some don't – it's like anything else – and we're excited for people when they do well. Jon stuck to his guns, he was all about taking time with him and look how it turned out." ■

Talking Tesio

FAMED BREEDER'S METHODS STILL AWE AT PANEL DISCUSSION, BEYOND

By Sandra McKee

Before and after a "Tesio Talk" at Laurel Park racetrack in April, there were several questions looking for answers.

Why is the brilliant Italian horseman Federico Tesio so important to Maryland Thoroughbred racing that when Laurel Park runs its prep for the Preakness Stakes each spring the race is called the Federico Tesio Stakes?

Why did the Sons of Italy in Baltimore County name a breeders' award for him in 1977?

And who was responsible for naming a race for a man (who lived from 1869-1954) who wasn't from Maryland, never, as far as anyone knows, set foot in Maryland and never bred or raced a horse in Maryland?

About 50 people assembled for breakfast and a presentation organized by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to find out just who Federico Tesio was and the answers to those questions.

J. William Boniface, the patriarch of the family that owns Bonita Farm in Darlington, Md., Josh Pons, who with his brother Mike and family owns Country Life Farm in Bel Air, the oldest existing Thoroughbred farm in the state, and Virginia-based bloodstock consultant Ned Moore, whose family has been in racing since the 1850s, comprised the panel trying to explain why Tesio is recognized as "the only genius to ever operate in the breeding world."

Boniface and Pons were positive about Tesio's impact on Maryland. The answer, they said, is Northern Dancer, the grandson of the great Tesio-bred Nearco. And Moore had many stories to share about Tesio's character, life and his impact on breeding racehorses.

But the real mystery remained who named the race and how did it happen? It seemed the answers were lost to posterity, as many associated with the time have passed. All that remained was speculation.

Maryland racing stalwarts Chick Lang (left) and Clem Florio take a moment with the Tesio Award presented to champion Smart Angle's breeder Ryehill Farm after her 1979 championship season.

"The first Tesio Award was started with the Sons of Italy in Baltimore, after . . ." said Pons before being interrupted by Boniface.

"A few glasses of wine," Boniface said, to laughter.

A week later, when a person at the Sons of Italy Grand Lodge of Maryland was asked if that story was true, she laughed, too. "Well, a lot of things do get done that way," she said and could find no one to shed any light on the old award or the race.

The Maryland Jockey Club's vice-president of racing development Georganne Hale could find no history for the establishment of the race, held for the 43rd time this spring, besides the basic information of its length, 1⅛ miles; where it began, Pimlico, 1981; who could enter, Maryland-breds for the first five years, then open to all.

But who named it and why?

"I would guess the race started because of the success of the Sons of Italy's dinner at Martin's West," Hale said.

Boniface won the award for Deputed Testamony's 1983 Preakness win, brought it to the talk and passed it around for all to see.

On the plaque is written: "The Federico Tesio Golden Horseshoe Award. J. William Boniface in recognition of his exceptional effort and contribution to the Thoroughbred Racing Industry, resulting in world wide attention to the State of Maryland. Presented February 24, 1984 by 40 West Lodge O.S.I.A."

Hale also said races are often named by members of the Maryland Jockey Club management team. It seemed possible that then racing secretary, the late Larry Abbundi, who was proud of his Italian heritage, might have been behind naming the race.

And then Pons, picking up where he left off, said, "Whenever I think of the origins of the Tesio Stakes, I think of [the late] Clem Florio. I think of Clem and the inspiration from Little Italy."

Panel participants (from left) Ned Moore, Josh Pons and Bill Boniface talked about the famed breeder Federico Tesio in April.

If there was a contest involved, Pons and Hale would share the prize. Just days before this story's deadline, Ross Peddicord, the Maryland Horse Industry Board executive director, who happened to be *The Baltimore Evening Sun*'s horse racing writer in 1977, returned a call.

"Clem Florio, who was the handicapper for *The Baltimore News American*, deserves the credit for the Federico Tesio Award and then the Tesio Stakes race," Peddicord said. "It was one of Clem's crusades to have Tesio honored for his great contributions to Thoroughbred breeding."

But why? Peddicord was asked.

"Because he was ITALIAN!" Peddicord said, laughing. "Tesio bred such foundation sires as Nearco and *Ribot. Of course Northern Dancer was a grandson of Nearco and his line represents the majority of Thoroughbreds racing in the world today.

"But I can still see and hear Clem standing up in the Pimlico press box every day expounding about the exploits of Federico Tesio. He'd say you hear all this stuff about Maryland horses and how great they are, but the greatest breeder in the world was Federico Tesio. He got the Maryland Racing Writers Association, which was then a large group of about 20 people from newspapers around the state, to listen and I believe they instituted the award, which the Sons of Italy presented. Then, Chick Lang, the general manager at Pimlico, listened and the stakes race was born [or technically adopted, as Pimlico's Survivor Stakes was renamed for Tesio in 1981].

"Clem, who was a former boxer, a larger-than-life character and really iconic among Maryland racing handicappers and writers, really deserves the credit for Tesio's recognition here," Peddicord said. "Every single day he made the case that Federico Tesio deserved to be honored. And, you know what? He was right."

A great horse, a great reason to honor Tesio's achievements

Tesio bred Nearco, the foundation of a sire line that includes the legendary Northern Dancer, who won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and stood at Windfields Farm in Chesapeake City, Md., for most of his life.

"Northern Dancer is celebrated as the greatest sire who ever lived in the world," said Boniface, who bred, owned and trained the late Deputed Testamony, still the last Maryland-bred to win the Preakness.

"If not for Tesio," Boniface said, "there wouldn't have been a Northern Dancer. Tesio bred Nearco, whose line produced Northern Dancer – which is probably the best thing he ever did."

Boniface and many others have no idea where Maryland would be in the world of Thoroughbred breeding and racing if Northern Dancer hadn't come along and been relocated from his native Canada.

"He brought us all the prestige we could have dreamed of," Boniface said after the morning seminar.

Northern Dancer stood at Windfields from 1968 until pensioned in 1987. During that time, his stud fee rose to $500,000 and was later simply a "private" transaction with one season to him reaching $1 million at auction. No stallion before or since has reached that total.

According to an article in *Maclean's* magazine in 2014, a French syndicate made a $40 million offer to Northern Dancer's owner, E.P. Taylor, to buy the horse when he was 21. You can bet no other stallion owner has ever been offered that much, either, for a horse that old.

No other stallion has ever seen the winning percentage of his offspring reach nearly 64 percent or had his genes present in every one of the horses competing in a Kentucky Derby, either – an occurrence that has happened at least four times (2014, 2018, 2022 and 2023).

All of those accomplishments by Northern Dancer (whose body was transported back to Canada for burial after he died in 1990) put Maryland on the map and, for a time, silenced the Kentucky breeders who Boniface said "used great publicity people in Kentucky to persuade people that because they have blue grass it's the only place you can ride a horse. It's @!%$#! . . . well I can't say that. They made it sound like there was nowhere else to breed a horse but Kentucky."

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred associate editor Cindy Deubler points out Tesio's Nearco started a line that has not only survived for more than 80 years, but has grown stronger.

That fact would have surprised Tesio, who believed a stallion's success would last no more than one to three years in the breeding shed.

But with a line of descendants that include Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, Bold Ruler and Secretariat, Nearco's and Northern Dancer's genes are speculated to run through 90 percent – or more – of current Thoroughbreds.

"We get a lot of foreign visitors," said Peddicord, of his role with the Maryland Horse Industry Board. "When they come here, I take them to Winbak Farm, the top Standardbred farm in the country, that used to be Windfields, where Northern Dancer stood. Northern Dancer is not buried there, but his mother, Natalma, is. And those visitors go nuts when I take them to her grave, saying they can't believe they're standing on the grave of the mother of the stallion who is responsible for the majority of all the Thoroughbreds in the world!"

Tesio spent his life looking for answers

So, it's not only fitting that there is a race named for Tesio in Maryland, it is fitting the MHBA and the MTHA hosted a "Tesio Talk" on the Saturday morning of the race.

> "If not for Tesio, there wouldn't have been a Northern Dancer. Tesio bred Nearco, whose line produced Northern Dancer – which is probably the best thing he ever did."
>
> *– Bill Boniface*

Those present learned a lot about Tesio. He was an orphan, a scientist, a painter, a furniture maker and most amazing of all the greatest breeder of Thoroughbreds, ever.

He wrote a book *Breeding the Racehorse*, which Boniface and Pons said has been read by every breeder they know.

"It's a primer for anybody who gets into the horse business," said Pons. "It's Tesio's own account of how his scientific mind approached the horse business. He wanted to know how much a horse could see, What's the eyesight of a horse. He wanted to know how a horse could be in a pitch dark 12-foot box stall at night, lay down, get up, drink water, eat and never run into the walls."

Tesio wanted to know everything he could about the horse. And it paid off for him. When the questions are asked, "Who is the greatest breeder, the greatest sire and the most consistent winner" the answers are frequently Tesio, Nearco and *Ribot (16-for-16, including two victories in France's premier race, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe).

"Tesio bred only 240 foals in his whole life," Pons said. "From them, the Northern Dancer story comes."

Tesio was a scientist in fact and at heart. He experimented with breeding combinations which, Moore, the bloodstock consultant, said was because "Tesio had a theory. He said he believed that many times he was wrong and that's why he experimented. That was the key to his success – experimentation, trying things."

Tesio was, in fact, a genius and a true horseman. On a small budget, he bred and personally trained all his horses. He became known as "The Wizard of Dormello" after establishing a farm by that name on the banks of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. From there he dominated Thoroughbred

breeding in Italy for half a century. Some may say he dominates still, with the bloodlines.

Like many horsemen, Tesio was lucky too. In one case, perhaps the most important case, said Josh Pons, incredibly so. And Pons tells this story about how Nearco came to be:

"Tesio's farm was in northern Italy," Pons began. "He sent his mares to England and France to be bred. They left his farm, took trains, a van to Milan, crossed the Alps, then more transport to a ferry across the English Channel. Then more days across more land and finally came to their destination in the English countryside.

"On this occasion, the mare [Nogara] was to be bred to Fairway, a successful, recognized stallion. But, by circumstance, the mare was bred to the wrong stallion Pharos [an unproven brother of Fairway]. And that's where the Pharos line impacts all of us today, by a circuitous breeding to the wrong stallion. Tesio always bred to known stallions and this one had no history. The result – Nearco."

And Nearco, eventually, became the grandfather of Northern Dancer.

If only every breeder could be so lucky.

What would Tesio think of today's Thoroughbred breeding?

Luck is often made in the breeding shed and there Tesio used his scientific wits and research to create unbelievable racehorses.

As Pons said, he bred less than 250 and yet dominated the most important European races. Some would say he was unorthodox.

"He was a great believer in Julius Caesar," Moore said. Pons pointed out Tesio started *Breeding the Racehorse* by talking about Caesar and the Middle East and Arabia.

"He believed, like Caesar, confusion and disarray won battles," said Moore. "I think he believed by putting out confusion and disarray he had an edge on everybody."

So, one day Tesio might tell someone who asked about breeding one thing and then do exactly the opposite himself the next day.

"He was always experimenting. He did not believe in speed sires, although every once in a while, to keep acceleration in a pedigree, he believed you had to breed to one," Moore said.

He had great intuition. A photographic memory. He believed in genetics. In breeding the best-to-the-best. And yet, he was superstitious. Taking a different way home if his horse lost or changing his barber for the same reason.

Moore revealed Tesio was personable, but rather quiet. Spoke six languages and was an avid reader. Loved art and went to every museum he came across. He didn't believe in sleeping more than an hour or two a night.

"Nowadays, you'd call him eccentric, or you'd have him on medication," Moore said. "He was something special in the horse breeding world."

And it seems Tesio is appreciated everywhere Thoroughbreds are bred and raced. Maryland's race is possibly the only one in the United States in his honor, but it's not alone. The Milan racetrack hosts the Premio Federico Tesio, and Melbourne in Australia cards its own Group 3 Tesio Stakes.

Asked what Tesio would think of the way Thoroughbreds are bred and trained today, Moore related that Tesio "didn't care too much about conformation."

"No, he believed a horse runs with a heart and with lungs, but wins races with character," Moore said. "You can have the best horse in the world, the best conformation, but he might not be able to win a race because he just doesn't have the character to do that."

But Moore continued, Tesio would have been interested in what's going on now.

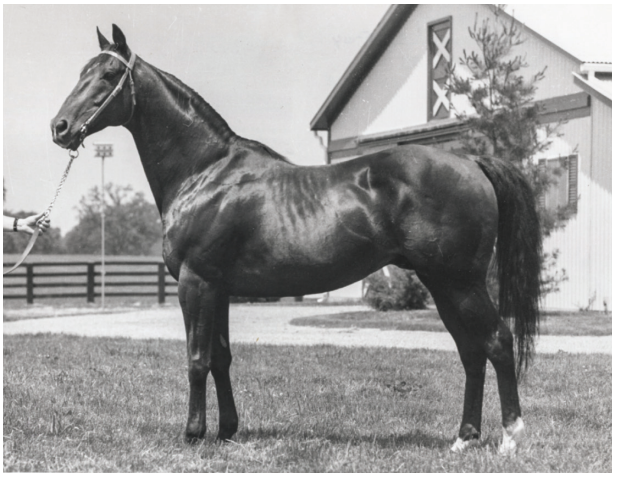
"He was very pragmatic and very flexible and he always adapted to things," Moore said. "He was looking for a horse that accelerated. Here in the United States, we're breeding for speed. Although things have changed a little bit. There is a new generation of trainers looking for a little bit of acceleration in the horses . . . But commercial breeders like speed sires because they usually bring a good return. They're flashy and come back quickly.

"So, he would have found today's breeding interesting because all these things were a challenge to him, and he always liked challenges."

But overall, Moore continued, "I think Tesio would disapprove of the lighter training and the lesser racing, but I don't think he'd disapprove of the breeding."

Tesio studied and tested his horses. Trainers today would be appalled by the harshness of those tests. Before a major race, Tesio would stage his own race over the same distance against two of the best horses he could find in Italy. "He wanted to get to the bottom of them," Moore said. "His harsh training produced champions. I think, as far as today's racing goes, he would be complaining it was too much speed."

The week before the Preakness, Boniface ran Deputed Testamony in a small stakes at what is now Parx Racing. His horse won with authority and came back in seven days, as a 14-1 longshot, to win the Preakness.



Tesio bred Nearco (top left). His son Nearctic (top right in 1969) stood at Allaire duPont's Woodstock Farm in Chesapeake City, Md., after he was syndicated for $1.05 million for six seasons until his death in 1973. Nearctic's son, the great Northern Dancer (lower left) stood at Windfields Farm in Chesapeake City. Tesio himself (captured by an unidentified artist) studied all things Thoroughbred.

"Trainers talk about their horses being too fragile," Boniface said. "I think the trainers are too fragile today."

Pons wonders if the way breeding is going these days if it is a threat to the second jewel in the Triple Crown, which runs just two weeks after the Kentucky Derby.

"Trainers have always complained about coming to the Preakness two weeks after the Derby," Pons said. "Ten years ago, trainers were taking three weeks between races and then four weeks and now, it's almost five weeks for good horses to reappear, which in my mind threatens the credibility of the Preakness. I wish there was an answer to it. Our horses, is it hard tracks? Is it that we've bred to just speed horses who were brilliant but unsound?"

All those who know about Tesio wish they could ask him. The brilliant Italian might have the answer.

■

Jersey Accent

HOLLY CREST HOMEBRED SPEAKING WINS FOR FIFTH TIME AT HOME TRACK

By John Piassek

Over the past few years, Speaking has become as much a part of the Monmouth Park experience as Max's Hot Dogs and Frank Sinatra's classic "Summer Wind."

The 4-year-old New Jersey-bred won his first start of the 2023 Monmouth season May 21, when he captured the John J. Reilly Handicap by a half-length as the even-money favorite. He has now won a stakes race at Monmouth at ages 2, 3 and 4. All five of his wins and $309,550 of his $339,840 in earnings have come at the Oceanport oval.

It's a classic story of "local boy makes good," considering Speaking was foaled at Vincent Annarella's Holly Crest Farm in Locust, N.J., only eight miles from the track. Annarella has been breeding horses there since 1964 and is a fixture in New Jersey racing and breeding. His most successful horse, Horologist, was foaled there in 2016 and went on to win three graded stakes and earn $962,939.

Eddie Owens Jr. serves as the private trainer for Holly Crest. Of the 11 horses in Owens' barn, 10 are Holly Crest homebreds. Owens worked for Joe Orseno for many years, running the Florida-based trainer's Monmouth base, and became acquainted with the Holly Crest operation thanks to John Mazza, who was stabled in the same barn and was Holly Crest's trainer for more than five decades. Mazza trained Horologist until the fall of 2019 and also trained Great Navigator, who won the 1992 Hopeful Stakes-G1 for Ron and Rosemary Shockley. The latter is Holly Crest's farm manager.

When Orseno did not send a string to Monmouth in 2019, Owens went to work for Mazza.

"He had been asking me to work for him for a long time, and when Joe didn't bring anyone up, I went to work for him," said Owens. "He was a friend of mine and a nice guy to me. I had known him for a long time, so it was pretty easy working for him. I had been doing the same thing for so long, this wasn't anything different."

When Mazza died at age 82 in May 2020, Owens took over as Holly Crest's trainer. The transition was easy, if a little sad.

"It wasn't hard for me, because I was pretty much on my own when I was with Joe. He was in Florida, and I was up here, and he never told me how to train horses. He'd say, 'You're with the horses all the time, so do as you see fit,' " Owens said. "There was more responsibility toward me, but I was used to it, so it wasn't a problem for me. The only thing different was making the entries, but if you know how to read a condition book, you can do that."

Owens' role is unique. Unlike most trainers, he's acquainted with his runners from birth, visiting Holly Crest and looking at them from an early age.

"Vincent's a very easy guy to train for," said Owens. "He's a great guy, he's been very nice to me. He lets me do what I need to do. If I run them against open company, if I like the horse, he doesn't have a problem with that."

One of those foals he saw early was Speaking, born at Holly Crest March 13, 2019. He's a son of Mr Speaker and the Silver Deputy mare High Noon Nellie, dam of seven winners from 10 starters for Holly Crest. Speaking's most successful sibling, the Stephen Got Even mare Stiffed, won the Monmouth Beach Stakes and Jersey Girl Handicap and placed in two graded stakes in 2015 to be named New Jersey-

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Holly Crest Farm's Speaking captures the John J. Reilly Handicap in his first start of the Monmouth Park season.

bred champion handicap mare. Retired with earnings of $256,559, she sold for $80,000 at Keeneland November in 2017, then for $320,000 at the following year's sale. Her foals include 3-year-old Arrogate filly Affirmative Lady (who won a Grade 2 in April and started in the Kentucky Oaks-G1) and the unraced 2-year-old Nyquist filly Cavalieri (who sold for $900,000 this spring).

Speaking made an impression from the beginning.

"The first time I worked him, I worked him a quarter," Owens said. "He went in :25, but he galloped out [three-eighths] in :36. I was like, 'Wow, he might be a runner.' "

Speaking broke his maiden on debut by 6¼ lengths against Jersey-breds Aug. 29, 2021. Next out, he stepped into open company and dominated the Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth Sept. 26, giving Owens his first stakes victory. "He really came to run that day," said Owens.

The dark bay gelding raced off Lasix for the first time in the Nashua Stakes-G3 at Belmont Park that November, and finished up the track. He was second in the Parx Juvenile Dec. 29, again without the anti-bleeding medication, to cap his freshman season and was named state-bred champion of his division.

A return to Monmouth in 2022 proved fruitful for Speaking, resulting in additional championship titles for 3-year-old male and sprinter. He won twice from five starts and finished in the top three in all but one. He capped his Monmouth season with a victory against older runners in the New Jersey Breeders Handicap Aug. 28, for his second stakes win. Unplaced in two graded stakes tries outside of New Jersey to conclude his season, Speaking was off-the-board on grass in his 2023 debut at Gulfstream Park March 10.

"I don't think he minded the grass, necessarily, it was just the competition. He wasn't used to it," Owens said of his try on the lawn. "Two turns, 7½ furlongs, that's a pretty wide-open type of race."

He returned to his favorite track, and to the winner's circle, in the Reilly.

Though Owens has no doubt about Speaking's ability, referring to him as "one of the best sprinters in the country," he's unsure about the future. One day after Speaking's win in

> "He's a fun horse to train. He has a big personality. When you go past his stall, you've got to give him attention. He'll start pawing at you until you stop and play with him."
>
> *– Trainer Eddie Owens Jr. about stakes winner Speaking*

the Reilly, Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority rules went into effect prohibiting Lasix in stakes races. Owens considers Speaking a better horse with Lasix, and plans to keep him against Jersey-breds this summer, where he can run against easier competition without the medication.

"He's got a little bleeding problem," said Owens, "so I'm not sure what we're going do with him now that you can't use Lasix in stakes races. He's a fast horse, but until they get all this straightened out, I'm not sure when we're going to be able to see his talent. It's a sticky situation with him. He's not the only one that needs it, I know that."

Speaking will continue to make his bones against Jersey-breds, and entertain Owens' barn along the way.

"He's a fun horse to train. He has a big personality," Owens said. "When you go past his stall, you've got to give him attention. He'll start pawing at you until you stop and play with him."

Owens has plenty of other promising Jersey-breds in the barn. Great Navigator, who shares a name with Mazza's Hopeful winner, broke his maiden at Monmouth last June and went on to finish second in the Sanford Stakes-G3 at Saratoga. He placed in his first three starts of 2023, two at Gulfstream and one at Monmouth, through June 7.

"The first time I ran him [this year] at Gulfstream, he finished second to a really nice horse," Owens said of dual winner Ticking. "Then I ran him back, and he got into a lot of trouble. I ran him [at Monmouth], and I knew he wasn't the fastest horse in the race, but we got stuck with a bad post position and got hounded on the rail."

On June 3, Owens unveiled a pair of promising 2-year-olds: Ship to Shore and Dont Rock the Boat, both by young New Jersey sire Sea Wizard. They finished 1-2 in a 4½-furlong maiden dash, with Ship to Shore a half-length clear of his stablemate.

"I think he might be special," said Owens of Ship to Shore. "He's one of the babies I'm really high on."

The following day, Holly Crest 3-year-old homebred Riding Pretty finished second in the Smart N Classy Handicap by a neck against Jersey-breds at 11-1.

NOTES: Monmouth began its season May 13 with the Long Branch Stakes, the first stop on the local road to the July 22 Haskell Stakes-G1. **Howgreatisnate** won a stretch battle over Offaly Cool by a head under Jairo Rendon. The winner is owned by John Guarnere's Imaginary Stables and trained by Elizabeth Dobles after a move from trainer Andy Simoff's barn . . . **Mia's Crusade** set the pace and pulled clear in the stretch to win the Spruce Fir Handicap for Jersey-bred fillies and mares May 20. The 4-year-old daughter of Greenpoint-crusader was bred by Dianne Boyken and is owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia and trainer Chuck Spina. Jomar Torres had the winning mount. She finished third in the Smart N Classy Handicap next out . . . A trio of stakes races took place Memorial Day weekend. **Big Everest (GB)** won his fourth in a row when he took the May 27 Cliff Hanger Stakes on the grass for Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Steve Rocco and William Branch and trainer Christophe Clement. **Spirit And Glory (Ire)** wore down odds-on pacesetter Scotish Star (Arg) to win the Miss Liberty Stakes over the turf May 28. She's owned by Michael Nentwig, Michael Dubb, Beast Mode Racing, John Rochfort and trainer Robert Falcone Jr. **Lightening Larry** won the Mr. Prospector Stakes May 29 for Lea Farms and trainer Jorge Delgado. It was the fourth stakes win for the Florida-bred, but his first at Monmouth . . . Mark Casse trainee **Boppy O** closed on the outside to defeat odds-on choice Talk of the Nation in the Jersey Derby June 3 for his second stakes victory. Boppy O won the With Anticipation-G3 at Saratoga last August for owners John Oxley and Breeze Easy . . . **Beach Daze** split horses late to win the Smart N Classy over Riding Pretty for her first career stakes win. The 4-year-old Blofeld filly was bred by Lenny and Beth Rera and was ridden by Adam Bowman for All In Racing Stables and J P S Stable and trainer Farrel Mann. . . Through the first four weeks of the season, **Paco Lopez** held a narrow lead in the rider standings, leading Samy Camacho 17-16. No other rider had more than seven wins . . . **Chad Brown** and **Jorge Delgado** were the early leaders in the training race, with seven wins each through June 5. ■

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— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

July – Momentum Builds

By the Fourth of July all things foaling and breeding are put aside and now the focus is on the yearling crop about to begin sales preparation. There is still plenty to do outside as the grass keeps growing and the mares and their foals require vigilance. I'll write more about sales prep later, but I have three great memories of July sales to recount.

The year 1983 was good for Charlton. We were in our third year on our new farm in Cochranville, Pa., and we had recently purchased an adjoining parcel of 60 acres. This brought the farm to 157 acres. We had a nice crop of yearlings to take to market for clients as well as for Charlton Venture 1983, a pinhooking partnership in which we had about eight partners.

At that time my brother Franny was a partner with Dixie and me in the business of Charlton Bloodstock Agency, Inc. and Franny's brother-in-law Jimmy Moran asked us to find a yearling colt at the Fasig-Tipton July Sale for his brother Michael to train. Jimmy's mother Betty had been a client of Franny's since she had added Thoroughbred breeding to her substantial steeplechase stable and we had been buying horses for her for several years.

In the meantime, we had purchased for our pinhooking partners a colt by Explodent out of the *Ribot mare Riganda at the Keeneland November Sale the previous year. The colt had done exactly what you hope a pinhook prospect would do. He became a beautifully balanced and eye-catching yearling who matured early and was a prime prospect for a July sale.

We left Pennsylvania headed for Kentucky with a handsome colt to sell and an order to buy a colt for Jimmy and Michael. As I recall, Jimmy had a budget of $75,000 and we scoured the grounds looking for his colt. We settled on a lovely colt from the first crop of Rich Cream (1975, Creme dela Creme—Right Turn, by *Turn To). Rich Cream was standing at Airdrie Stud and Brerey Jones had become famous for his success at selling yearlings from his stallions' first crops. The horse had been moderately successful, with eight wins and earnings of $222,420. I believe he stood for $7,500 so we felt confident he would fall within our budget.

Meanwhile, back at the Charlton consignment in Barn 6 our $20,000 weanling purchase was getting a lot of attention. In particular, British bloodstock agent George Blackwell asked to have him out several times and then came and sat on a bench for an hour watching him be shown. Another frequent visitor was Maryland trainer Dean Gaudet whose main client was Giant Foods magnate Israel Cohen. On sale day she said, "I was thinking about this colt on my way home yesterday and I remembered that he coughed when I was looking at him. Does he cough a lot?" I assured her he didn't and thought, to myself, that if she were thinking about him on her way home we were in pretty good shape.

We had to wait a long time before the Rich Cream colt (Hip 337) and our colt (Hip 457) headed to the ring. When the time came, we all followed the colt we had picked out for Jimmy to the ring and never even got a chance to raise our hands. He flew by and sold for $160,000 as we tried to bid from the back walking ring. We were licking our wounds of disappointment when Betty came out of the pavilion waving the sales slip at us. She had waited until the bidding was well past our budget and bought the colt for herself. Betty named him Creme Fraiche and sent him to her trainer Woody Stephens. He became Stephens' fourth of five consecutive Belmont Stakes-G1 winners as well as a two-time winner of the Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 and retired to her Brushwood Farm with career earnings of $4,024,727.

Meanwhile, 120 hips later, our Explodent colt arrived in the ring and a sales agent's dream came true. Dean Gaudet and George Blackwell hooked up and, after a spirited bidding duel, Gaudet prevailed at $200,000, exactly 10 times what we paid. I'm sorry to report, that on the racetrack, he was no Creme Fraiche.

Three years later we had our one and only chance to sell a yearling at the legendary Keeneland July Sale. For several years

we had been boarding mares for International Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc., the publicly held company started by Robert Brennan and run by Kerry Fitzpatrick. Brennan had owned and raced the excellent sire Deputy Minister (1979, Vice Regent—Mint Copy, by Bunty's Flight) who then stood at Windfields Farm in Maryland. ITB bred several mares to the stallion and we were lucky enough to board those mares. They also bred to The Minstrel (1974, Northern Dancer—Fleur, by Victoria Park) who also stood at Windfields.

In 1984 Kerry sent us French-bred *Veruschka, a foal of 1969 by Venture out of the Vandale mare Marie d'Anjou. She was already the dam of the $1,104,623-earner and Grade 1 winner The Very One, and her 1984 foal would become Soviet Star, another million-dollar earner and French 2000 Guineas-G1 winner by Nureyev.

We foaled *Veruschka's 1985 filly by Lyphard at Charlton, oversaw her breeding back to The Minstrel, and kept her in Pennsylvania until that colt was born. The Lyphard was a lovely filly with tons of European appeal, so we decided to aim her for the Keeneland July Sale. The July Sale at that time was the height of the yearling market at the height of the Thoroughbred market. The previous year Windfields had sold a colt who would be named Seattle Dancer for $13.1 million, and the 1984 sale topper was an $8.25 million colt who would be named Imperial Falcon.

Dixie and I were excited and nervous to enter this atmosphere for the first time as sellers and were appropriately thankful to Fitzpatrick for the faith he showed in us. When I stood in our yard between Barns 23 and 24 and took in the names of the other consignors, I was somewhat overwhelmed. The filly did her job; she showed well; took all of the hubbub in stride; and when we led her up toward the end of the sale, she sold to Darley for $310,000. It may have been just another buy for them but a great thrill for us and the highest-priced yearling sold by Charlton for many years.

We didn't know it then, but the Thoroughbred market was in the process of drastic contraction. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 severely curtailed the tax savings afforded to passive investors in the horse business and put many of the breeding and racing partnerships out of business. The highest priced July yearling in 1986 was $3.6 million and it would be many years before the market made up for losses sustained by pre-1986 investors.

We never got back to the Keeneland July Sale as consignors, but we established a comfortable niche at Keeneland September and Midlantic October for the ensuing 30 years. ■

The Steeplechase Times

Jumping at the Chance

LEWIS ENJOYS STRONG RUN WITH MAJOR WINS ON FLAT, OVER FENCES

By Paul Halloran ■ *Photographs by Tod Marks*

Six days after pulling off a steeplechase double, Patrick Lewis stood near the Churchill Downs winner's circle, ready to watch Red Carpet Ready, the first yearling he ever bought, run in the Eight Belles Stakes-G2 on the Kentucky Oaks undercard May 5.

It was almost four hours before the 9-furlong Oaks, but for Lewis and his partners, this 7-furlong sprint, also for 3-year-old fillies, was very much the main event.

"The most special part to me is being with my dad [John], who brought me to the races for the first time, and he'll be here with me again today," Lewis said. "My dad took me to the Oxmoor Steeplechase, and then the Kentucky Derby. And I'm like, 'I like this.' By the end of the weekend, I'm doing handicap analysis. I was hooked on horse gambling, racing, watching them run, and by the time I was 7, I knew it was something I was going to be into my whole life. I just never expected I'd be here on Oaks Day with a horse running. That's a huge leap."

The now defunct Oxmoor Steeplechase, in suburban Louisville, Ky., was a stop on the Midwest Hunt Racing Association and National Steeplechase Association calendars from 1940-2002. Lewis took that introduction and ran with it.

He's admittedly no pedigree expert, but he did like the looks of Hip 27 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select sale. He was a fan of Oscar Performance as a runner, but with this being the first crop by the Mill Ridge Farm sire, he was unproven as a stallion. Lewis' friend, Bo Bromagen, went to $180,000 to buy the daughter of the Street Sense mare Wild Silk, and a few weeks later Lewis called to see if he could buy in.

"Hey, I don't know how this works, but I'm assuming you'll mark me up and you'll charge a bloodstock fee," Lewis told Bromagen.

"No, you buy in at cost," Bromagen answered.

"So that kind of just cemented the relationship," Lewis said. "That's how his character is. He's never been anything but more than fair to me, to the point of being too fair."

And there they were, standing beneath the Twin Spires, as their filly, who won her first three races before running third in the Davona Dale-G2 at Gulfstream Park, was sent off as the 5-1 second choice. Undefeated Munnys Gold, the 2-5 favorite who won her first three races by a combined 38 lengths, went to the lead for Irad Ortiz Jr.

Luis Saez had Red Carpet Ready, trained by Rusty Arnold, in striking distance, third after a quarter-mile and second after

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Co-owned by the Upland Flats Racing of Patrick Lewis and Ashbrook Farm, Red Carpet Ready (6) holds off Munnys Gold to capture the Grade 2 Eight Belles Stakes on the Kentucky Oaks undercard.

a half. By the time they hit the top of the stretch she had taken the lead, but Munnys Gold didn't go down without a fight, rallying up the rail only to come up short by a head.

"We won it," said Lewis, breaking into a looking-for-someone-to-hug dash that brought back memories of Jim Valvano 40 years prior. "I'm speechless. Every race she's won she's made that move around the turn. My good friend Ramiro Restrepo [who would have his own celebration the next day when Mage won the Kentucky Derby-G1] told me that class beats speed. Munnys Gold is a great filly, but our filly is too, and she showed a lot of class."

Only two years after claiming his first horse – West Newton (GB) – at the Radnor steeplechase meet, Lewis, who races as Upland Flats Racing, was posing for the Churchill Downs photographer.

"To think that two years ago I got my first horse and bought my first yearling, and now I'm in the winner's circle on Kentucky Oaks Day is unbelievable," he said.

The day Lewis had on the jumps circuit April 29 was one for the ages, too. It started in the Piedmont countryside of Mineral Springs, N.C., where Freddy Flintshire, owned by Lewis in partnership with his father, Bromagen and Field Ladd, romped to a 14½-length win in the Queen's Cup novice hurdle stakes at Charlotte in his first start of 2023. It was the third win in six starts over jumps for the Keri Brion-trained son of the 2016 champion turf horse Flintshire (GB).

"Freddy won his maiden there last year and he's just been so good for us," said Lewis, who bought the horse after he had gone 0-for-9 on the flat in England and the United States. "He's never been worse than third [over jumps]. He's been really going well. We thought he'd win, but we certainly didn't think he'd win by 14 lengths. That was insane."

Freddy Flintshire was last of six after 1½ miles, improved to third at the 2-mile mark, was second at the top of the stretch and turned it into a command performance, with Cool Jet (Ire) a distant second.

"I cannot look at a horse's conformation and tell you anything. I use data to pick sires who produce better-than-average results relative to what their stud fee and yearling sales are."

– Patrick Lewis, on buying/choosing prospects

Patrick Lewis (left) greets steeplechase stakes winner Freddy Flintshire with trainer Keri Brion (right) and assistant Tatiana Sushko at the Queen's Cup.

"He just ran the race of his life, honestly," Lewis said. "We were running up and down screaming. So that was a really special moment to be there for it. That racetrack is really special. And I've developed a nice relationship with [race founder] Bill Price."

Two weeks later on the Iroquois card in Nashville, Cool Jet, owned by Riverdee Stables and trained by Jack Fisher, turned the tables in the Green Pastures Stakes, winning the 2¼-mile novice by 7 lengths. Freddy Flintshire was second, bringing his hurdle record to 7-3-2-2 and his career earnings (flat and hurdles) to $144,637.

After the Charlotte race, Lewis was anxious to get home to Nashville for his sons' baseball game the next day. Rushing to get to the Charlotte airport, he pulled over to watch the Daniel Van Clief Memorial via livestream from Foxfield in Charlottesville, Va., which went off about 45 minutes after the Queen's Cup. The owner saw West Newton, his first horse in a stable that now numbers 29, lead every step of the 2⅛-mile race, holding off Scorpion's Revenge (Ire) by a nose. Harrison Beswick got a leg up from winning trainer Ricky Hendriks.

"He's just such a genuine horse. He's been a trier his whole career," Lewis said. "Ricky's done a great job getting the best out of him. We claimed him for 15 grand in 2021 and he's won five times for me on the flat and over jumps. And he was bred by the Queen [Elizabeth], so that's kind of a fun little factor with his pedigree."

The horse took a long, winding road.

West Newton was bought at the 2019 Tattersalls July Sale for $52,597 by Stroud Coleman Bloodstock and Sean Clancy and joined the American stable of Irv Naylor and Cyril Murphy. Last of six in his U.S. debut that November, the bay gelding missed almost a year and finished seventh of nine in a maiden claimer in October 2020. Off another six-plus months, he returned with a second in May 2021 and was claimed a week later. Third that day, he broke through with a Colonial Downs maiden hurdle score in August and won again in September. Last year, he lost two starts over hurdles but won on the flat at Pimlico in September. This year, through May, he was a perfect 2-for-2 with an Aiken handicap score and the Foxfield handicap win.

Unlike the madness on Oaks Day, when West Newton won the Van Clief, Lewis had no one to share in the euphoria.

"I'm screaming in the car to nobody, thinking, 'Are you kidding me?' " said Lewis, who caught the race but missed his flight.

"I got to take the Queen's Cup trophy with me, and I brought it through the airport," Lewis said. "I missed my flight, so I posted up at the bar with the trophy and had a few beers while waiting for the next one."

He had plenty to celebrate.

"That was about as good a day as you could possibly have. I'd never had a stakes winner in my silks before and I had two on the same day, within an hour," said Lewis, who couldn't imagine a better moment.

He only had to wait six days for that to materialize. As a reminder that you need to be lucky as well as good, consider that Red Carpet Ready, the Eight Belles heroine, was a $100,000 buy-back at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April sale last year.

"We put a fairly high reserve [$350,000] for an Oscar Performance first crop," Lewis said. "It seemed like we wouldn't get it. My bloodstock agent, Joe Miller, said he thought she was going to bring that, but she ended up having a chip in her ankle in the vetting. When that happened, the bidding stopped around $100,000. Obviously, we didn't sell. We would have been in the money, but we would have missed this ride."

It has been a meteoric rise for Lewis, a bond trader who grew up in Nashville and graduated from Vanderbilt University before heading to New York City to work. His parents were into foxhunting and part-owners of some steeplechase horses.

"We were fixtures at the Iroquois [Steeplechase]," said Lewis, who serves on the committee for the race which dates to 1941. "We're still members of a local foxhunting community."

The Eight Belles wasn't the first time Lewis was in the Churchill Downs winner's circle with Red Carpet Ready, as the fleet filly won the Fern Creek Stakes on Thanksgiving weekend last year. That also involved a travel story.

"We flew in from California," Lewis said. "My dad picked us up at the airport and we blitzed over here just in time to make the paddock. And 30 minutes later we were in the Directors Room. That was a special day. It's been one of so many special days I've had in the last six months. It's been crazy."

As he expands his involvement in both the flat and jumps world, Lewis is relying on relationships, data and the template developed by Major League Baseball general manager Billy Beane (of the Oakland A's and *Moneyball* movie).

"One-hundred percent relationships," said Lewis, who has a handful of 2-year-olds in training with Jamie Begg in New York. "The relationship with Bo has led to the majority of my classiest horses. And the other stuff I've done is what I would call Moneyball sort of value-type plays. I cannot look at a horse's conformation and tell you anything. I use data to pick sires who produce better-than-average results relative to what their stud fee and yearling sales are. I create a 200-name short list and then Joe Miller will go in and whittle it down and say, 'OK, here are the 10 we should focus on.' "

Reliance on data is similarly important in Lewis' "real" job, but the human element also plays an important role.

West Newton followed this handicap win at Aiken with a win in the Daniel Van Clief Memorial at Foxfield in April.

"I trade CMBS bonds [commercial mortgage-backed securities]," he said. "There's data involved, but what's more important than anything in that world is relationships and partnerships. All my success has come from partnerships in CMBS and that rings true in racing more than anywhere else. I've got the best people around me."

That starts with his wife, Brianna, and sons, Connell and Gray. A few years ago, Lewis bought a farm in Giles County – about a half-mile from his parents' farm – where he someday hopes to live with his retired horses. His company is based in Greenwich, Conn., and Chicago, but during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic opened an office in Nashville, where he works.

"Hopefully my partners and CEO don't see this, but I would say the racing has eaten into my work a little bit over the past year. So it's really a passion. I consider it a business and really my second job."

One that is paying off quite well. ■

The Steeplechase Times

World Traveler

IRELAND'S SCARAMANGA DENIES SNAP DECISION A THIRD IROQUOIS

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Tod Marks*

Bidding to become the first horse to win three consecutive runnings of the Grade 1 Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville May 13, Snap Decision ousted six American-based foes but couldn't hold off Irish raider Scaramanga (Ire) in the stretch.

The 8-year-old sent by trainer Willie Mullins got a savvy ride from Paul Townend, who stayed inside and covered up before producing his horse in the stretch. Scaramanga passed leader Snap Decision a few strides before the last fence and drew off to win by 3¾ lengths in 5:49.20. Snap Decision settled for second, a half-length to the good of Scorpion's Revenge (Ire).

With Sean McDermott replacing the injured Graham Watters, Snap Decision led after the third fence. Townend settled Scaramanga in his slipstream and there they stayed for a lap of the sprawling course.

With another circuit to go, Snap Decision led by 3 lengths over Scaramanga. Then everything changed.

As the field turned to face the long backstretch, Noah And The Ark (Ire) and Mortlach (GB) engaged Snap Decision. Mortlach wilted first. Noah And The Ark lasted longer, but folded his tent after the second-last midway on the turn. Townend never looked up while sliding back to fourth. Snap Decision came off the bend in front as Scorpion's Revenge took aim. Fourth along the rail, Scaramanga passed Noah And The Ark, muscled Scorpion's Revenge off the case, caught Snap Decision just before the last and scampered away.

The win was the second jump win in the United States for Mullins, and first in a Grade 1. In 2019, international star Wicklow Brave (GB) died in a fall while in control at the last fence of the American Grand National at Far Hills.

"It's hard coming here without knowing the other horses," Townend said. "I was in Far Hills and Wicklow Brave unfortunately fell, it doesn't make up for it, but it's a little bit of compensation anyway. It's nice to ride Grade 1s around the world. I'm very lucky to be riding them for Willie at home and in England."

Mullins' assistant David Casey suggested an Iroquois try with Scaramanga, a four-time winner in Ireland and England for owner Malcolm Denmark. Mullins runners Shaneshill (Ire) and Nichols Canyon (GB) finished second and third in the 2016 race so there was some familiarity.

"I said it to Malcolm when we were saddling him for the Coral Cup in Cheltenham because he's a horse who likes dry ground. He's just struggling a little bit in Ireland ground wise," Casey said. "I was just trying to think outside the box, so I said, 'We've had runners there before, the ground will be dry to suit him, he's got the quality to be competitive, are you interested?' Malcolm said, 'Yeah, definitely.' That's where it started. I said to Willie I have an idea, he said, 'Hey, if Malcolm is happy, I'm happy.' So it was great."

Mother Jumper

Motherhood agrees with Bercasa (Ire). The 8-year-old mare, about a year removed from having her first foal, won the $50,000 Margaret Currey Henley Stakes at the Iroquois. The victory was her first in the United States and first since July 31, 2019, back home in Ireland.

The road took many turns.

Imported by trainer Kathy Neilson for owner Irv Naylor in 2019, Bercasa came to the U.S. with three hurdle wins and jumped right into the upper level of the filly/mare division.

Scaramanga (left) leads Snap Decision (right) and Scorpion's Revenge over the last in the Iroquois.

Fourth and fifth in two hurdle starts that fall, she went to the sidelines with a tendon injury. In 2020, with much of the jump schedule canceled, she tried three point-to-point flat races with Neilson's daughter Skylar McKenna as the jockey – finishing seventh and winning a week apart in September and refusing to start in October.

Neilson, by now owner and trainer, regrouped and aimed for a 2021 return. Let's just say Bercasa did not cooperate.

"She was sulky and kind of grumpy about training, about it all really," Neilson said. "Every single day she would buck somebody off."

Neilson had heard stories about mares settling and changing temperaments after being bred, and also wasn't getting anywhere with Bercasa as a racehorse, so she called Northview Stallion Station and asked for the best mate among the Maryland farm's stallion roster. Madefromlucky made sense and the daughter of Irish-bred Casamento went to the son of Lookin At Lucky.

Bercasa was a changed mare.

"Total business," Neilson said of her mare's personality after getting in foal. "She was so nice to ride, we could train her. She became really good to work with, just pleasant and easy to do anything with. It was a real personality transformation."

The dam of a yearling by Madefromlucky, Bercasa (right) catches Met in Miami at the last fence of the Henley.

Co-owned by Madaket Stables, Jimmy P heads for home in a handicap hurdle at the Iroquois.

Sixty or so days in foal, she finished third behind future Grade 1 winners The Mean Queen (Ire) and Down Royal in the 2021 Henley in late June. She missed the rest of that season with a return of the tendon problem, delivered a chestnut colt last spring and went back into training for 2023 as Neilson opted not to breed her back.

"That's just a lot, so I didn't really want to do that again," said Neilson of raising a foal and maintaining a mare. "Plus, she seemed so different. She kept beating everyone in her breezes, her attitude was great, she only bucked one person off instead of everyone."

In the 2023 Henley, Bercasa and Gerard Galligan rated well back in the field before drawing even with Right Tempo (Fr) and Met in Miami at the last fence and pulling away by 1¾ lengths. The $30,000 payday will help fund Bercasa and her son, a chestnut colt named Leaping Louis for Neilson's late father and timber-racing legend Louis "Paddy" Neilson III.

"He was born on Dad's birthday, April 20, so we named him that," Neilson said of the Pennsylvania-bred. "Skylar put some tack on him the other day and he was really good about it. He's got a good mind, likes the attention and we'll see how it goes."

Late Spring Look Back

Beyond Scaramanga and Bercasa, the Iroquois did not disappoint with its spring-high $445,000 in purses over seven races. The Madaket Stables silks, aboard National Treasure a week later in the Preakness-G1, found the winner's circle with Jimmy P in a $35,000 handicap hurdle going 2¾ miles for trainer Keri Brion and jockey Danny Mullins. Co-owned by Molly and Paul Willis, the son of Slumber (GB) won for the third time over jumps.

The Iroquois maiden was divided this year with Arch Kingsley and jockey Stephen Mulqueen taking both. Hudson River Farms' L'Imperator (Fr) won the first by a nose over Geordie Dreamer. A race later, Barbados (Ire) scored by a length over Riendo for owners Richard Colton Jr. and Stella Thayer.

Riverdee Stable's Cool Jet (Ire) was settling for second in the $75,000 Green Pastures novice hurdle stakes until The Hero Next Door (Ire) fell while in front at the last fence. The duo ran 1-2 throughout, and quickened away from three others on the final run up the backstretch. Kept inside by jockey Tom Garner, Cool Jet made one final play for the lead coming off the turn but The Hero Next Door was 2 lengths clear at the last before falling. Trained by Jack Fisher, Cool Jet won on the flat in England and had made two hurdle starts before being imported last year. He graduated the maiden ranks at Far Hills in October, and opened 2023 with a second at Charlotte.

At Willowdale also May 13, Kiplin Hall's Renegade River won the Buttonwood/Sycamore Farm Stakes over timber for trainer Willie Dowling and jockey George Daly. The Louisiana-bred Bellamy Road gelding won the same race in 2021, and came into this year's try off two thirds and two seconds in his previous four starts.

Pennsylvania's Radnor Hunt Races put a bow on the 2023 spring season with five races, headlined by an allowance hurdle score by Awakened for Riverdee and Ten Strike Racing. Trained by Fisher, the 6-year-old collected his second hurdle win after a flat career with breeder Phipps Stable and trainer Shug McGaughey.

NOTES: Trainer **Leslie Young** more than doubled-up on everyone with 21 wins (from 68 starts) during the spring. The Pennsylvanian led Marylander Jack Fisher by 11 wins. Ricky Hendriks won seven (from just 13 starts) to check in third, followed by Neilson with six wins. Young won major timber races with Andi'amu (Fr), Tomgarrow (Ire) and Monbeg Stream (Ire) and unveiled dual hurdle winner The Hero Next Door (Ire) while piling up $451,350 in purse earnings . . . **Harrison Beswick** led a tight jockeys' race with nine wins, followed Graham Watters (who was injured and missed Iroquois and Radnor) with eight. Irish apprentice Conor Tierney tripled at Willowdale to get to six on the year . . . **Irv Naylor** (five wins, $205,050) and **Riverdee Stable** (six, $185,700) led the owners' standings headed to the summer schedule at Colonial Downs and Saratoga starting July 14 . . . Colonial's schedule called for racing on Fridays, July 14 through Sept. 8, while Saratoga's schedule included racing every Wednesday July 19 through Aug. 30. ■

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

Maryland Horse®

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Flag Waver

Maryland-bred Coffeewithchris gave the Preakness a go for connections, state

By John Piassek

Jim McCue

Coffeewithchris and Sarah Mohr take a turn around Pimlico during Preakness week.

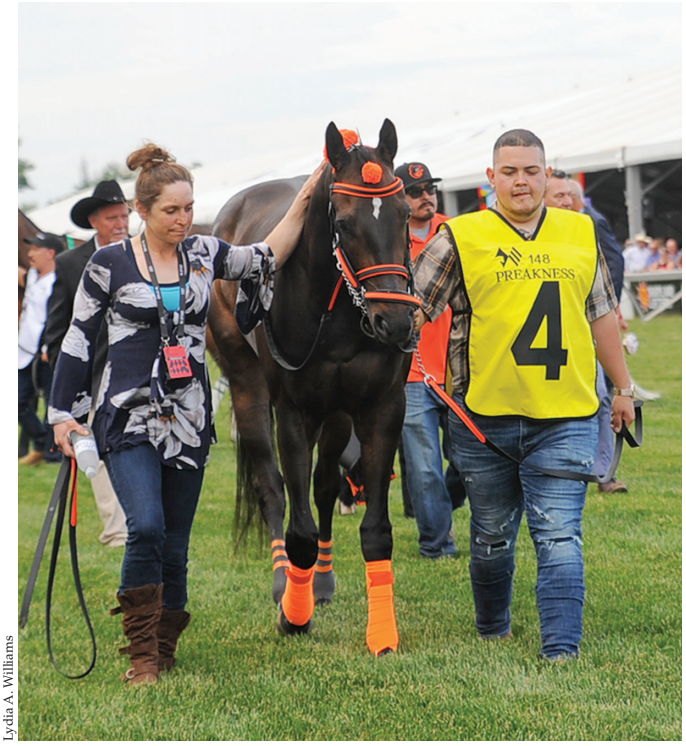
The third week of May was slightly busier than normal for John Salzman Jr.

Usually, his horses head to the track early, receive post-training baths and rubdowns in private, then go about their days. When Salzman's Coffeewithchris took to the track at Pimlico Race Course Thursday morning May 18, photographers and videographers followed his every move. When he went for his bath, a semi-circle of reporters formed around him. After the bath, Salzman fielded questions from reporters from local and national outlets.

There was a good reason for the hype. Maryland-bred Coffeewithchris was getting ready to run in his state's biggest race, the Preakness Stakes-G1, for the Maryland-based Salzman and co-owners Fred Wasserloos and Anthony Geruso.

By entering the gate, Coffeewithchris became just the fifth Maryland-bred in the past 20 years to tackle the Preakness. He was seeking to become the ninth to win the race, and the first since Deputed Testamony in 1983.

Salzman originally planned on running his gelding



Lydia A. Williams

All decked out for his turn in the national spotlight, John Salzman-trained Coffeewithchris arrives in the Preakness paddock led by Sarah Mohr and Cesar Cruz.

in the Long Branch Stakes at Monmouth Park May 13, but changed his mind and decided to pay the $15,000 entry fee and the $15,000 starting fee to make the Preakness field May 20.

"I never thought I'd be in this position, but I'm glad to be here," Salzman said at the post-position draw Monday, where he held court with reporters who flocked his way after Coffeewithchris drew post four. "We're 20-1 [on the morning line], it's an eight-horse field, so we're gonna take a chance at it. I'm hoping for the best."

The field scratched down another notch to seven, with the defection of likely third choice First Mission on Friday morning, but Coffeewithchris made the field and stood up for regional breeders, owners and trainers in the second jewel of the Triple Crown.

It was a spot Salzman did not anticipate when he purchased the gelding for $2,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. Bred by former U.S. congressman, current National Thoroughbred Racing Association president and MHBA board member Tom Rooney and foaled at his family's Shamrock Farm in Woodbine, Coffeewithchris traces back to Christopher R., the Shamrock-bred 1975 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year.

Bred by Rooney's grandfather and Shamrock founder Art, Christopher R. was a local hero with 22 wins in 42 starts for Maryland trainer stalwart "Toughy" Hacker. The closest Christopher R. ever got to the Preakness, however, was a win in the 1975 Jennings Handicap at Pimlico five days before Master Derby won the big one.

"It was a great experience and a great day for my family," said Rooney. "We've been at it for generations in Maryland and to have a descendant of Christopher R. in the race was a huge thrill. He's a son of Ride on Curlin so not very commercial, but I loved the pedigree and match for Andiemac, Coffeewithchris' dam. I know it's easier said than done, but having the hometown horse in a championship race is just the cherry on top. It would've been great for Maryland if he could've placed but I can't complain. He's already given me a lifetime of memories to talk about. Hope we get back there someday."

Named for Maryland Jockey Club track superintendent Chris Bosley's morning coffee sessions with horsemen, Coffeewithchris was originally considered to be a sprinter after winning twice as a 2-year-old, but he answered distance questions all winter and spring. He won the 1-mile Miracle Wood Stakes and was second in the 1 1/16-mile Private Terms despite racing wide on both turns. His Federico Tesio effort, a fifth behind the Preakness-bound Perform, was good enough to encourage Salzman to take a shot.

While his rivals, including Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage, traveled from faraway locales such as Kentucky, New York and California, Coffeewithchris took a van from his Laurel base to Old Hilltop. After hitting some traffic, he arrived at the Pimlico stakes barn at around 11:30 a.m. Preakness Wednesday. In contrast to his well-traveled rivals, Coffeewithchris was hardly used to new surroundings. He hadn't raced outside of Laurel in nine months – when he finished second at Timonium last summer.

Salzman, who has fewer horses in his barn than many of his fellow Preakness trainers have Triple Crown nominees per year, was surprised by the sudden attention.

"It's been crazy. It's a lot more than I expected, especially being a longshot. I figured I'd just come in and fly under the radar. That didn't work out," Salzman said. "I guess being a Maryland-bred has added to the hype."

Salzman observed that Coffeewithchris was more amped than usual with his busier surroundings.

"He's a little wound up," the trainer noted Thursday morning when the gelding acted up a bit in the stable area, "and I'm a bit skittish myself."

Salzman played it cool most of the week, acknowledging that he was a longshot, but stating that he had earned the right to take a chance and that he was happy to be there.

He told that story many times during Preakness week. Locally, WMAR-TV, Fox 45 Baltimore and the *Baltimore Banner* featured stories on Coffeewithchris. National racing outlets such as Horse Racing Nation, *BloodHorse* and TVG took time to profile him.

On Thursday morning, the annual Alibi Breakfast took place at Pimlico. While many of the Preakness trainers couldn't be bothered to attend, Salzman, in his first Preakness, made an appearance – and got emotional. Salzman emphasized the meaning of the race to him and his family, which has been involved in the industry in Maryland for decades. It brought home Coffeewithchris' significance in this Preakness field. In an era of super-trainers and ownership conglomerates, he represented a chance for the everyday heroes of the sport to take a chance on a big stage while also putting the $500,000 bonus for a Maryland-bred Preakness win in play.

"It's pretty amazing, it's been exciting," Salzman told the Alibi Breakfast crowd. "I'm a Maryland guy so I try to stay at home as much as I can. We were hoping to win the Tesio and it didn't work out the way I wanted it to, but we got beat 2 lengths and I couldn't let 2 lengths change my mind with the Preakness."

Salzman paid credit to his wife Marla and – after a long pause and an "Excuse me" to collect himself – the barn staff and other players needed to get a horse to a race.

Race day morning dawned quiet. There weren't many reporters around, no trips to the track, not even an opportunity to get one more bath shot. As post time approached and the field was called to the paddock, groom Cesar Cruz placed the Salzman trade-

mark orange pom-poms atop Coffeewithchris' mane, and the team began the walk to Pimlico's Preakness saddling area on the turf course.

As he walked over, nerves began to set in, but Salzman reiterated what he said all week and repeated his plan for jockey Jaime Rodriguez.

"I'm good, I'm good. I'm getting a little too old to be making that walk," he quipped. "The racetrack feels a foot deep to me. Knock on wood, everything's been good. I think he's going to break good, I hope he breaks good and he's going to have to let the rider do his thing. If the one [National Treasure] breaks good, I think I'm better laying second. If they don't want to do it, we'll do it and just try to slow them down as best we can. I hope he gets the mile and three-sixteenths."

Salzman's father trained Hall of Famer Xtra Heat and three other graded stakes winners. His son is known for savvy yearling purchases and quick-developing 2-year-olds. Neither would draw comparisons to the far-reaching national stables that typically contest the Preakness.

"It has been a lot man," Salzman said just before saddling his horse. "I've been doing it a long time and I've never been quite in this position. Dad handled most of this with Xtra Heat. This is a little overwhelming but we're going to get through it. That's what makes it special."

Sent off at a surprisingly low but still the co-longest shot on the board 11-1, Coffeewithchris gave the Maryland racing world a thrill in the early stages. He rated near leader National Treasure through a slow pace, but when Rodriguez asked Coffeewithchris for run on the far turn, he had no response. He ended up a tired seventh and last, beaten 19¾ lengths. Not an unexpected result, necessarily, but certainly not an idyllic one.

After the race, Salzman and his team headed back to the barn. Coffeewithchris walked around the shedrow, without many people around, while Salzman sat on a beach chair and watched. It was the culmination of a week in the sun, as an underdog gelding flew the flag for his state and smaller-scale horses everywhere. ❧

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.

Allard to judge yearling show

Trainer Ned Allard, a New Jersey native, New England stalwart and trainer of Hall of Famer Mom's Command in a long career, will judge the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's 89th annual yearling show at the Maryland State Fairgrounds' Horse Show Ring in Timonium July 23.

Allard got his start in the business working for trainer George Handy in New England in the late 1950s. In 1970, he opened his own stable at the now-defunct Lincoln Downs in Rhode Island and built a career now in its sixth decade.

Mom's Command, bred and owned by Peter Fuller, counted 11 wins in 16 starts, including the Grade 1 Selima at 2 and New York's Triple Tiara for fillies in 1985, sweeping her way through the Acorn Stakes, Mother Goose Stakes and Coaching Club American Oaks, and concluded her career with an Alabama-G1 win. For her accomplishments, she was voted the champion 3-year-old filly that season and joined racing's Hall of Fame in 2007. Other notable horses trained by Allard include graded stakes winners Miss Indy Anna, Friel's for Real and Always Sunshine.

Hoofprints, Inc.

In 1989, Allard relocated his stable to the Mid-Atlantic and is based at Delaware Park. He has won 2,773 races in his career with purse earnings of more than $41.5 million.

"I've trained a lot of nice horses and it's been a lot of fun," the 77-year-old Allard said of his training career. "I feel honored to be asked to judge this show."

Allard joins an esteemed list of MHBA yearling show judges, a group that includes 26 Hall of Famers and four Triple Crown-winning trainers.

Among Maryland-bred yearlings to have competed in the show are Eclipse Award-winning Hall of Famer Safely Kept, Eclipse Award-winning juveniles Smart Angle and Declan's Moon, 2019 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1 winner Sharing, 2021 Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 winner Aloha West, and millionaires Cathryn Sophia, Urbane, Cherokee's Boy, Eighttofasttocatch and Cordmaker. ❧

Maryland Horse
LIBRARY
AND EDUCATION CENTER

Summer events at the library

After a spring and early summer highlighting Triple Crown winners (Patricia McQueen's author talk about *Secretariat's Legacy,* and Jennifer Kelly, author of *The Foxes of Belair: Gallant Fox, Omaha, and the Quest for the Triple Crown* and *Sir Barton and the Making of the Triple Crown*), as well as Thoroughbreds taking on new challenges (a Retired Racehorse Project panel discussion), the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown has a varied array of summer programming lined up.

In cooperation with the Reisterstown branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, the first children's story time will be held outside, next to the new garden area, Thursday, July 20 at 2 p.m.

The fourth Monday program July 24 welcomes Sam Robinson. Renowned for his sporting art, Robinson is an award-winning fine arts master who regards his subjects "as broader than just the races and meets. The setting is the country and indeed the people who make it work. I make informal portraits of the large cast of characters, and views of the farms and woods."

Robinson will discuss his passion for his subjects and why he believes his work is important to the overall public view of the sport. His art will be on display, with select items offered for sale.

August programming includes California author Mark Shrager, whose latest book, *The First Kentucky Derby: Thirteen Black Jockeys, One Shady Owner, and the Little Red Horse That Wasn't Supposed to Win* has just been released. A turf writer and racing historian, Shrager has produced earlier works on the first woman to ride in the Kentucky Derby, *Diane Crump: A Horse-Racing Pioneer's Life in the Saddle*, and the history of Pimlico's iconic race, *The Great Sweepstakes of 1877*. An author talk will be held Thursday, Aug. 17 at 4 p.m.

The planting of the Memory Garden located behind the MHLEC building was completed in May.

August's fourth Monday program (Aug. 28) will look at the history and spectacle of the Maryland State Fair with a panel discussion led by Fran Burns.

Events in the fall are being scheduled for the fourth Mondays include a panel discussion on the Maryland Horse Park and the 5-Star at Fair Hill and the Washington International Horse Show (Sept. 25), and Washington D.C. International history and the Breeders' Cup connection (Oct. 23).

For more information for these and future events, visit MarylandHorse.com/library.

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center plans to host programs the fourth Monday of every month except December. Recordings of previous programs can be found on the library website.

Maryland Foal Report

ANGEL OF THE NILE, by Pioneerof the Nile, b.f., April 8, by Tacitus. Maria M. Haire.

ANOTHER COUGAR, by With Distinction, b.f., April 15, by St Patrick's Day. Maria M. Haire.

ARCH ENEMY, by Arch, b.f., May 16, by Barbados. Barak Farm.

BAREFOOT NATIVE, by Graydar, b.f., April 29, by Spun to Run. Tony and Dawn Bowling.

BAZINGA B, by Lion Hearted, b.c., May 9, by Engage. Joseph Besecker.

BEAR SLAYER, by Two Punch, ch.c., April 17, by Golden Lad. Morgan Dove.

COUNTRY WOLF, by City Wolf, ch.f., April 10, by Hoppertunity. Maria M. Haire.

DEFOE STREET, by Street Sense, ch.c., April 24, by St Patrick's Day. Tony and Dawn Bowling.

DOUBLECLICKDAMOUSE, by Point of Entry, b.c., April 9, by Hoppertunity. Ralph Santella.

ELENA SAYS HELLO, by Harlan's Holiday, b.c., April 9, by Uncle Lino. Robert Mason Stone II.

EMPRESS MONTEZ, by Shakin It Up, b.c., April 14, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M. Haire.

FIX YOU, by Flying Chevron, b.f., April 30, by Golden Lad. Matthew Groff.

FLIRTATION WALK, by Outflanker, b.c., April 15, by Barbados. Little Man Farm.

FOOLS PRINCESS, by Bellamy Road, ch.f., May 10, by Uncle Lino. Karmac Stables LLC.

GREAT START, by Jump Start, b.c., April 14, by Divining Rod. Anthony Walters.

HAPPY HAILEY, by Rock Slide, ch.f., March 15, by Blofeld. George Louis Doetsch Jr.

HAWAIIAN SUNSET, by In Summation, ch.c., May 22, by Hoppertunity. Maria Montez Haire.

HER BIG MOMENT, by Awesome Again, b.c., May 6, by Cairo Prince. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Tonalist.

HOLIDAY DREAMING, by Harlan's Holiday, b.c., April 28, by Uncle Lino. Lawrence Smith.

HOLIDAY HOPES, by Harlan's Holiday, b.c., April 14, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M. Haire.

JOE'S GIFT, by Sky Mesa, dk.b./br.f., May 2, by Mosler. Charles Parker.

LANDING ZONE, by Morning Line, b.c., March 15, by Fortune Ticket. BB Horses. Mare to Paynter.

LAST KISS, by Lemon Drop Kid, b.c., May 3, by Collected. Mr. and Mrs. A John Price.

MAGIC WARRIOR, by Majestic Warrior, ch.c., April 6, by Uncle Lino. Karmac Stables LLC.

MAJESTIC PRINCESS, by Cairo Prince, b.c., May 13, by Preservationist. Maria Haire.

MEADOW GEM, by Quality Road, b.f., April 29, by Divining Rod. Lawrence Smith.

MISS ADELE, by Speightstown, b.f., March 1, by Hard Spun. George louis Doetsch Jr.

MOLLY O'SHEA, by Cape Blanco (Ire), ch.c., March 12, by Gift Box. Justin J. Nixon.

MY GOLDEN BELLE, by My Golden Song, b.c., March 20, by Union Rags. George Louis Doetsch Jr.

MY PRECIOUS BABY, by With Distinction, b.f., April 23, by Hoppertunity. Lawrence Smith.

NEARLY A NOTION, by Great Notion, b.c., April 7, by Engage. Erika Neuberg.

NEW LONDON, by Rockport Harbor, b.c., May 6, by Gift Box. Maria Haire.

PRINCESSOFTHENILE, by Pioneerof the Nile, ch.c., April 21, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M. Haire.

QUEEN'S FATE, by Artie Schiller, b.c., April 30, by Uncle Lino. Karmac Stables LLC.

REGAL MADAME, by Colonel John, b.c., May 7, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria Haire.

ROSIE BELLE, by Trappe Shot, ch.c., May 7, by Hoppertunity. Karmac Stables LLC.

SEEKING GOLD, by Drosselmeyer, ch.f., April 2, by Irish War Cry. George Louis Doetsch Jr.

SENTIMENTAL MEMORY, by Street Sense, gr./ro.f., April 26, by Kobe's Back. George Louis Doetsch Jr.

Chris Steele (2)

Left: Fillies by Rainbow Heir bred by New Farm are out of stakes winner Forest Funds (foreground) and Tiz Moi. Above, T.J. Rooney's Vecoma colt out of Striking Bella is a half-brother to two stakes performers.

SILVERTONGUEDIVA, by Arch, b.c., May 13, by Barbados. Barak Farm.

SMILE BIG, by Big Drama, b.f., April 21, by Flameaway. James B. Steele.

SONNY'S PHAROAH, by Pioneerof the Nile, b.c., May 6, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria Haire.

SUNDAY IN MALIBU, by Malibu Moon, b.f., April 15, by Bourbon Courage. Dr. Ronald Harris Parker. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

SUSAN ELAINE, by Hold Me Back, ch.c., April 18, by Tiz the Law. Maria M. Haire.

SUSAN KARAN, by Waquoit, b.f., April 29, by Hoppertunity. Nancy Heil.

TIGERETTE, by Jump Start, b.c., April 21, by Global Campaign. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Yoshida (Jpn).

TREASURE TIME, by Maclean's Music, ch.c., May 1, by Eclipticalspraline. Catherine Jager.

UNIFORMLY YOURS, by Grand Slam, b.f., April 27, by American Pharoah. Marama Farm Thoroughbred Breeding.

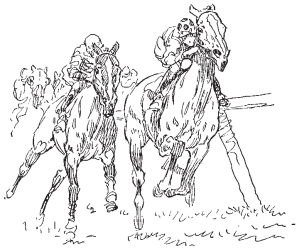
UNREFINED, by Sky Mesa, ch.c., April 20, by First Mondays. Glenangus Farm LLC.

WALTZING CAT, by More Than Ready, ch.f., May 1, by Known Agenda. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Vekoma.

WARRIOR'S BLADE, by First Samurai, ch.c., April 27, by Golden Lad. Jacqueline Vaughn and Jennifer R Small.

WILD RIVER CAT, by Pioneerof the Nile, ch.c., April 6, by Engage. Maria M. Haire.

YEARDLEY, by Don't Get Mad, b.f., May 9, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria Haire.



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in March 2023 at Maryland tracks

Conniver Stakes

March 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 8 competed. (Closed with 19 nominations.) Winner: MAVILUS, by Orientate. Breeder bonus: Kevin P. Morgan ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Orientate Syndicate ($3,375). Second: STREET LUTE, by Street Magician. Breeder bonus: Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman ($3,375). Stallion bonus: R. Larry Johnson ($1,125). Third: AWARD WANTED, by Macho Uno. Breeder bonus: Alexandro Rubim-Dias ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Not For Love Stakes

March 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 6 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 21 nominations.) Winner: Pennsylvania-bred by Great Notion. Second: Virginia-bred by Great Notion. Third: EASTERN BAY, by E Dubai. Breeder bonus: Nancy Lee Farms ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Linda L. Albert—Mit Mazel: March 11, 8th race, $7,830.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Finn's Nickel, LLC—R B's the Boss: March 25, 8th race, $1,215.

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: March 19, 1st race, $4,860/$1,620. She Is Wisky: March 18, 3rd race, $2,160. ($8,640)

William Bayne—Bernie's On Fire: March 5, 2nd race, $405.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Billykus: March 12, 1st race, $585. Need a Marker: March 11, 5th race, $776.25. ($1,361.25)

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: March 4, 2nd race, $3,780.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Mama's Eyes: March 19, 1st race, $1,620. Street Lute: March 18, 5th race, $3,375. ($4,995)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Alwaysinahurry: March 19, 8th race, $1,575. Clubman: March 12, 6th race, $4,320. ($5,895)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: March 18, 7th race, $4,500. Great Go Go: March 31, 2nd race, $1,170. Shady Munni: March 31, 6th race, $3,240. ($8,910)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Auntie Rona: March 24, 6th race, $652.50. Dry Well: March 10, 4th race, $1,800. ($2,452.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Thomas Bowman and Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: March 26, 3rd race, $1,170.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Rustys Gfivefifty: March 12, 7th race, $6,480.

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: March 4, 8th race, $7,830.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: March 25, 4th race, $3,105.

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Inspired Irish: March 4, 3rd race, $1,305.

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: March 4, 5th race, $517.50; March 25, 10th race, $1,035. Seven On the Rocks: March 24, 4th race, $6,480. ($8,032.50)

Clover Hill Farm Inc.—Best Worst Idea: March 17, 9th race, $1,125.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Ladneedsahandler: March 5, 3rd race, $1,170; March 26, 6th race, $7,290. ($8,460)

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: March 25, 8th race, $7,290.

Country Life Farm and Atlantic Tide LLC—Camelia Rod: March 5, 1st race, $517.50.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnel—Captain Quint: March 17, 7th race, $900.

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: March 3, 5th race, $7,290; March 25, 7th race, $2,430. ($9,720)

Country Life Farm and Sassy Molly LLC—Pepe and Heywood: March 3, 2nd race, $990; March 25, 5th race, $2,430. ($3,420)

Country Life Farm and Union Waters LLC—Moses Water: March 11, 1st race, $810.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through June 1)

1.	Award Wanted	$182,500	
2.	Eastern Bay	166,500	
3.	Mit Mazel	120,620	
4.	Fuhgeddaboudit	119,120	
5.	Dancing Sophia	115,150	
6.	It's Viper	111,430	
7.	Fille d'Esprit	110,000	
8.	Response Time	105,340	
9.	Brzina	105,300	
10.	Excellorator	104,190	
11.	Coffeewithchris	$103,750	
12.	Alwaysinahurry	100,250	
13.	Liquidator	99,330	
14.	Clubman	97,450	
15.	Princess Kokachin	96,360	
16.	Easy Action	90,200	
17.	Ournationonparade	85,800	
18.	My Flicker	84,263	
19.	Al Loves Josie	83,950	
20.	Going to the Lead	81,990	

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: March 11, 1st race, $1,620.

CRK Stable LLC—Excellorator: March 3, 8th race, $2,790; March 25, 9th race, $8,370. ($11,160)

Dark Hollow Farm—Hot N Spicy Love: March 24, 2nd race, $2,430. Maryland Moon: March 10, 5th race, $810; March 31, 1st race, $810. Oxide: March 19, 5th race, $585. ($4,635)

Deer Creek Racing—Mo Fire: March 19, 9th race, $1,260.

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds, Jaclyn O'Donnell and Kingdom Bloodstock Inc.—Mungo Magic: March 10, 9th race, $562.50.

Annette Eubanks—Lookin for Justice: March 31, 6th race, $540.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Lookin Spunky: March 26, 4th race, $517.50.

Finn's Nickel LLC and Anchor and Hope Farm, Inc.—Exculpatory: March 19, 7th race, $1,395.

Fitzhugh LLC—Espresso Lungo: March 19, 3rd race, $3,375.

Charles A. Frock—Tam Char: March 3, 3rd race, $720; March 24, 5th race, $4,320. ($5,040)

Ruby Mae Gaddis—Despite the Gin: March 12, 3rd race, $1,125.

Gainesway Thoroughbreds Limited—Born for Victory: March 24, 1st race, $1,035.

Robert J. Gerczak—Antipoison: March 3, 2nd race, $2,970. Dialing Dixie: March 5, 2nd race, $2,430. ($5,400)

Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: March 12, 7th race, $1,080.

Maria M. Haire—Noah Chance: March 31, 7th race, $2,790.

Highclere and Five Hellions Farm—Free Square: March 5, 3rd race, $585; March 26, 5th race, $1,170. ($1,755)

Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: March 11, 2nd race, $3,645. Mine Run: March 19, 6th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($11,565)

Jagger Inc.—Berks: March 4, 6th race, $4,320. Bossyness: March 11, 5th race, $1,552.50; March 31, 5th race, $1,552.50. Freddyness: March 12, 1st race, $3,510. ($10,935)

R. Larry Johnson—By Its Absence: March 25, 3rd race, $1,305. Despite Odds: March 3, 1st race, $3,105; March 17, 1st race, $630. Notimelikepresent: March 19, 3rd race, $1,125. Quit Quay: March 19, 1st race, $810. ($6,975)

JSM Equine LLC—Gamestonks: March 10, 4th race, $900.

Carol A. Kaye—Air Token: March 25, 6th race, $4,320.

Wendy M. Komlo—Holy Delite: March 12, 3rd race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Joanne P. Krishack—Dr. Rusty Raymond: March 5, 2nd race, $810.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Hay Diddle Diddle: March 24, 9th race, $810. Holy Synchronicity: March 18, 4th race, $2,610. Mailman's a Flyer: March 31, 4th race, $1,215. Stardust Ziggy: March 25, 2nd race, $4,657.50. ($9,292.50)

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: March 11, 7th race, $2,340.

Kenneth F. Lowe Jr.—Special Freedom: March 12, 9th race, $382.50.

LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: March 5, 8th race, $1,125.

Daniel Lunceford, Jennifer Lunceford and Echo Valley Farm—Poet in My Heart: March 26, 4th race, $1,035.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Imaginetheodds: March 26, 9th race, $1,125.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—No More Talk: March 26, 5th race, $585.

Marathon Farm Inc.—Abuelo Paps: March 19, 4th race, $990.

Helen C. Marshall—Take Charge Too: March 26, 3rd race, $2,340.

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: March 24, 6th race, $3,915.

Kevin P. Morgan—Mavilus: March 18, 5th race, $10,125.

Murmur Farm—Bonded: March 3, 9th race, $4,657.50; March 24, 7th race, $776.25. ($5,433.75)

Nancy Lee Farms—Eastern Bay: March 18, 6th race, $1,687.50.

No Guts No Glory Farm—Cocktail Dreaming: March 17, 6th race, $3,510. Fuhgeddaboudit: March 12, 8th race, $7,830. General J R: March 12, 5th race, $1,305. Grass Cutter: March 5, 8th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($17,145)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Jardani: March 10, 8th race, $7,290.

David W. Palmer—Preparefortakeoff: March 18, 10th race, $540.

A. Leonard Pineau—Wired In: March 19, 3rd race, $562.50.

Tim Ritchey and Janet Ritchey—Dancer's Melody: March 26, 7th race, $585.

Rolling Meadows Farm—Brooklyn Girl: March 3, 4th race, $2,340.

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: March 18, 9th race, $4,500.

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Wanted: March 18, 5th race, $1,687.50.

Shamrock Farm—Albertano: March 17, 2nd race, $3,510.

Skeedattle Associates—Best Choice Baby: March 25, 3rd race, $652.50.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Porch Swing: March 19, 6th race, $990.

Hamilton A. Smith—I'm Gittin There: March 18, 3rd race, $6,480.

Stephen E. Smith and Denise Jones—Tiz No Clown: March 31, 7th race, $1,395.

Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: March 17, 9th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: March 25, 9th race, $1,395.

Swillcan Stables LLC—Mr Thrifty: March 19, 5th race, $1,170.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: March 26, 2nd race, $1,080. Circling the Drain: March 18, 9th race, $2,250. Dulce Kiara: March 12, 4th race, $1,170. Frightland: March 12, 7th race, $2,160. Goodafternoonoscar: March 11, 7th race, $1,170. Your Analysis: March 24, 9th race, $4,860. ($12,690)

Thomas L. Teal—Rad Paisley: March 24, 4th race, $2,160.

James F. Thames—Notion to Tapit: March 25, 4th race, $517.50.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Alvy: March 10, 5th race, $4,860. Cover the Spread: March 10, 6th race, $1,215. It's Viper: March 11, 6th race, $2,430. Rationalmillennial: March 25, 10th race, $517.50. Solving Progress: March 3, 4th race, $1,170. Torch of Truth: March 3, 8th race, $1,395. Vax a Nation: March 10, 1st race, $2,340; March 31, 3rd race, $1,170. ($15,097.50)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Lost Weekend: March 4, 7th race, $1,215; March 25, 8th race, $2,430. Startwithabang: March 18, 3rd race, $1,080. ($4,725)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—That's Some Kiss: March 3, 6th race, $2,430.

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: March 10, 7th race, $7,020; March 25, 7th race, $1,215. ($8,235)

Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: March 4, 8th race, $1,305; March 24, 4th race, $1,080. Flimsy: March 4, 9th race, $967.50. Italian Dressing: March 3, 3rd race, $4,320; March 26, 8th race, $2,430. ($10,102.50)

David H. Wade—Rominski: March 4, 6th race, $1,440.

Susan Wantz—He's On Fire: March 24, 7th race, $4,657.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: March 5, 4th race, $776.25; March 12, 1st race, $1,170. Running River: March 25, 3rd race, $3,915/$1,305. ($7,166.25)

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: March 18, 7th race, $2,250.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Thencomemorning: March 19, 2nd race, $585.

Winding Creek Farm—Dr. Snyder: March 24, 3rd race, $1,620.

David W. Wright—Step Ahead: March 31, 8th race, $562.50.

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Box N Ben: March 11, 7th race, $780. Dulce Kiara: March 12, 4th race, $390. Seven's Eleven: March 25, 8th race, $2,430): Bandbox Syndicate—$3,600.

BARBADOS (Albertano: March 17, 2nd race, $1,170): Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Bonded: March 3, 9th race, $1,552.50; March 24, 7th race, $258.75. Brooklyn Girl: March 3, 4th race, $780. Gamestonks: March 10, 4th race, $300): Blofeld Syndicate—$2,891.25.

BOURBON COURAGE (Cocktail Dreaming: March 17, 6th race, $1,170. Double Crown: March 18, 7th race, $1,500. Hay Diddle Diddle: March 24, 9th race, $270): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$2,940.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: March 18, 7th race, $750): Cal Nation Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Despite the Gin: March 12, 3rd race, $375. Despite Odds: March 3, 1st race, $1,035; March 17, 1st race, $210): R. Larry Johnson—$1,620.

DIVINING ROD (Born for Victory: March 24, 1st race, $345. Camelia Rod: March 5, 1st race, $172.50. Dry Well: March 10, 4th race, $600. Liquidator: March 3, 5th race, $2,430; March 25, 7th race, $810. Poet in My Heart: March 26, 4th race, $345. Rascally Rebel: March 5, 4th race, $258.75; March 12, 1st race, $390. Rustys Gfivefifty: March 12, 7th race, $2,160): Divining Rod Syndicate—$7,511.25.

DORTMUND (Dolice Vita: March 12, 7th race, $360): Kaleem S. Shah.

FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: March 25, 9th race, $465. Free Square: March 5, 3rd race, $195; March 26, 5th race, $390. Mit Mazel: March 11, 8th race, $2,610. Special Freedom: March 12, 9th race, $127.50): Freedom Child Syndicate—$3,787.50.

FRIESAN FIRE (Bernie's On Fire: March 5, 2nd race, $135. He's On Fire: March 24, 7th race, $1,552.50. Mo Fire: March 19, 9th race, $420. Shady Munni: March 31, 6th race, $1,080. Thencomemorning: March 19, 2nd race, $195): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,382.50.

GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: March 26, 2nd race, $360. Air Token: March 25, 6th race, $1,440. I'm Gittin There: March 18, 3rd race, $2,160. Ladneedsahandler: March 5, 3rd race, $390; March 26, 6th race, $2,430. Mine Run: March 19, 6th race, $1,980. Oxide: March 19, 5th race, $195. Quit Quay: March 19, 1st race, $270. Remembering Wilbur: March 4, 2nd race, $1,260. That's Some Kiss: March 3, 6th race, $810): Golden Lad Syndicate—$11,295.

GREAT NOTION (All Threes: March 4, 8th race, $435; March 24, 4th race, $360. Alwaysinahurry: March 19, 8th race, $525. Best Worst Idea: March 17, 9th race, $375. Brzina: March 11, 2nd race, $1,215. Freddyness: March 12, 1st race, $1,170. Fuhgeddaboudit: March 12, 8th race, $2,610. Great Go Go: March 31, 2nd race, $390. Italian Dressing: March 3, 3rd race, $1,440; March 26, 8th race, $810. Lost Weekend: March 4, 7th race, $405; March 25, 8th race, $810. Noah Chance: March 31, 7th race, $930. Notion to Tapit: March 25, 4th race, $172.50. Rominski: March 4, 6th race, $480. Tam Char: March 3, 3rd race, $240; March 24, 5th race, $1,440. Tenax: March 25, 4th race, $1,035): Great Notion Syndicate—$14,842.50.

HOLY BOSS (Bossyness: March 11, 5th race, $517.50; March 31, 5th race, $517.50. General J R: March 12, 5th race, $435. Holy Delite: March 12, 3rd race, $1,125. Holy Synchronicity: March 18, 4th race, $870. Jardani: March 10, 8th race, $2,430. R B's the Boss: March 25, 8th race, $405): Holy Boss Syndicate—$6,300.

IMAGINING (Imaginetheodds: March 26, 9th race, $375. Stardust Ziggy: March 25, 2nd race, $1,552.50): Imagining Syndicate—$1927.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Fivecommatwo: March 19, 1st race, $1,620. Inspired Irish: March 4, 3rd race, $435. Irish Lace: March 17, 9th race, $1,125. Mungo Magic: March 10, 9th race, $187.50. Porch Swing: March 19, 6th race, $330): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$3,697.50.

LONG RIVER (Grass Cutter: March 5, 8th race, $1,125. Running River: March 25, 3rd race, $1,305. Step Ahead: March 31, 8th race, $187.50): Long River Syndicate—$2,617.50.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Best Choice Baby: March 25, 3rd race, $217.50. Lookin Spunky: March 26, 4th race, $172.50): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$390.

MOSLER (Billykus: March 12, 1st race, $195. Captain Quint: March 17, 7th race, $300. Luv Ya Bye Bye: March 11, 1st race, $540. Moses Water: March 11, 1st race, $270. Need a Marker: March 11, 5th race, $258.75. Pepe and Heywood: March 3, 2nd race, $330; March 25, 5th race, $810): Mosler Syndicate—$2,703.75.

NO NEVER NO MORE (Dr. Snyder: March 24, 3rd race, $540. Tiz No Clown: March 31, 7th race, $465): Tigertail Ranch—$1,005.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: March 12, 6th race, $1,440. Hot N Spicy Love: March 24, 2nd race, $810. No More Talk: March 26, 5th race, $195. Torch of Truth: March 3, 8th race, $465): Not For Love Syndicate—$2,910.

ORIENTATE (Mavilus: March 18, 5th race, $3,375): Orientate Syndicate.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: March 4, 8th race, $2,610): Redeemed Syndicate.

ROCK SLIDE (Seven On the Rocks: March 24, 4th race, $2,160): Shamrock Farms.

STREET MAGICIAN (Mama's Eyes: March 19, 1st race, $540. Street Lute: March 18, 5th race, $1,125): R. Larry Johnson—$1,665.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Bad Temper: March 4, 5th race, $172.50; March 25, 10th race, $345): Country Life Farm—$517.50.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **July/August 2023** -

In This Issue

Trainer and NJTHA President Pat McBurney recipient of 2023 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Award

Speaking is making stakes wins a habit at Monmouth Park

Mia's Crusade loves Monmouth Park and an off-track

2022 TOBA NJ Breeder of the Year announced

NTBNJ Membership Application

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Trainer and NJTHA President Pat McBurney recipient of 2023 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Award

Long-time trainer Pat McBurney, a fixture at Monmouth Park for more than four decades and the current president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, has been named the 2023 recipient of the Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Raines Award, currently in its 28th year, is presented annually just prior to Monmouth Park's season opener. The track's 78th season of live racing got underway on Saturday, May 13.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive this award because of what it means to Thoroughbred racing in New Jersey," said McBurney. "It's an impressive list of past recipients so it's a great honor to join them."

McBurney, who spent the first half of his career as an assistant to the late John Forbes (the 2006 Raines Award winner), went out on his own full-time as a trainer in 2007. He saddled his first winner on May 13, 2007, when future stakes winner Cable Boy won his career debut at Monmouth Park.

"Pat's tireless efforts on behalf of New Jersey horsemen and racing in general in the state, and his success as a trainer, make him a worthy recipient of this year's Buddy Raines Award," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, the operators of Monmouth Park. "It's a fitting honor for someone who has done so much to promote Thoroughbred racing in New Jersey."

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McBurney has won 335 races overall, with the versatile Golden Brown and Just Call Kenny – both Grade 3 winners – being his top runners. Golden Brown, still racing as an 8-year-old, has won 10 of his 40 career starts with earnings of $821,080. Just Call Kenny's top achievement was winning the 2019 Philip H. Iselin Stakes-G3 at Monmouth Park.

"Golden Brown is just a special horse," said McBurney. "He does everything – he can sprint, he can race long, he races on the dirt or turf. To this day I am not sure what he is best at. He's a horse who loves to race and distance or surface don't matter to him."

McBurney, who resides in nearby Fair Haven, will have nearly three dozen horses stabled at Monmouth Park this summer for the 51-day meet.

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Speaking is making stakes wins a habit at Monmouth Park

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Recording his first win of 2023, the 4-year-old gelding Speaking was able to sit off the early speed, wrest control of the race in mid-stretch, and hold on for a half-length victory in the $85,000 John J. Reilly Handicap at Monmouth Park.

Trained by Eddie Owens and ridden by Jairo Rendon, Speaking followed his 2021 victory in the Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth Park and a win in the New Jersey Breeders Handicap last year at the shore track by adding the 40th edition of the John J. Reilly to his list of stakes triumphs.

The son of Mr Speaker bred and owned by Holly Crest Farm sped the 6 furlongs in 1:10.41. He went off as the even-money favorite in the field of nine Jersey-breds, 3 and up.

"We tried him on the grass his last race [March 10 at Gulfstream Park] because I always wanted to try him on the grass," said Owens. "He ran better than it looks on paper in that race. He had a tough trip against a lot of nice horses. So I think he got something out of that race.

"He has been a good, consistent horse and Monmouth Park is home to him. You can see by his numbers that he loves Monmouth."

Speaking now sports a 5-1-1 line from eight career starts at Monmouth Park and is 4-for-6 at the 6-furlong distance.

He was positioned just off the early speed of No Cents, who set early fractions of :22.25 for the opening quarter and :45.11 to the first half. Coming out of the turn, those two separated themselves from the field, with Speaking surging past No Cents in deep stretch. Amatteroftime rallied from far back to get third, a half-length behind the early pacesetter.

"I was a little nervous being in post 10 with all of the speed inside of us and then all the speed on the outside with us," said Owens. "We were a little wide but he was the best horse. I'm very pleased with the way he ran. We'll probably keep him with Jersey-breds for now."

This marked the first time Rendon had ridden Speaking, who has now won five of 13 career starts – with all of the wins coming at Monmouth Park. Three of his career defeats have come in graded stakes.

"This was the first time I've ridden him but I looked at a few of his races to get an idea of what he likes to do," said Rendon. "He's an easy horse to ride. He pushes right out of there. He has some tactical early speed that put him in a position to be right outside the speed. That's where I wanted to be. Then when he needed to go in the stretch he still had enough left."

Mia's Crusade loves Monmouth Park and an off-track

Seeking her first career stakes win, 4-year-old Mia's Crusade broke on top of the field in the $85,000 Spruce Fir Handicap at Monmouth Park May 20 from post position 9, vied three-wide for the early lead and was in control the entire race to get the win over a sloppy track.

Trained by Chuck Spina and ridden by Jomar Torres, Mia's Crusade was coming into the Spruce Fir off an eight-month layoff, but repeated a similar pattern when she won off a seven-month layoff in her first start of 2022 in the slop at Monmouth.

Witht the win, the daughter of Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon, has a solid 4-2-1 line from 12 career starts. Her $239,031 in career earnings make her the most successful offspring of Greenpointcrusader, who won the Grade 1 Champagne Stakes in 2015.

"She's an honest filly with not a lot of breeding. We bought her as a weanling from the breeder, Dianne Boyken," said Spina. "She tries every time.

Spina is part owner of Mia's Crusade along with Joseph and Gayle Ioia, and is looking for another solid year from her. She was 0-for-3 in stakes tries entering the Spruce Fir Handicap, but finished second in last year's Smart N Classy, beaten just a half-length in her first career start going long.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

2022 TOBA NJ Breeder of the Year announced

Bright View Farm has been named by the Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association (TOBA) as the 2022 Breeder of the Year in New Jersey. Bright View Farm will be honored during TOBA's 38th Annual National Awards Dinner at Keeneland in September.

Horses bred by Bright View Farm won seven of 45 starts and earned $316,995 in 2022. Among the successful runners were I Can Run, a filly by Tourist out of the Peaks and Valley mare Hana J. who won three of her eight starts, including the $100,000 Eleven North Handicap at Monmouth Park. I Can Run was honored as the 2022 New Jersey-bred champion 3-year-old filly.

Bright View Farm is also co-breeder, with Gregory Kilka, of the 2022 New Jersey-bred champion 2-year-old filly Girl Trouble. Girl Trouble reached the winner's circle three times in 2022, including the Future Stars Filly Division at Parx in November. The daughter of Fast Anna out of Adorabella has a record of five wins in 11 starts with earnings of $276,100.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
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W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

July/August 2023

President's message

Congratulations to Art Bauer, Gerard Eckhardt, George and Debra Eckhardt – Jimmer Racing, for Hartful Hope's (NC) win, and Carolina Cooper for Lil Miss Moonlight's victory. As always, kudos to everyone who had horses show up on the track.

Please welcome new members George and Debra Eckhardt from Ohio and thanks to Gerard for his recruiting.

There is still hope that parimutuel racing will be allowed in NC sometime this year. So, at the time of this writing, the NC Senate added parimutuel waging back in to their version of the Sports Betting bill. The NC House intentionally excluded it from their final version of the bill they voted on and passed. The Senate did put some conditions on the inclusion of parimutuel waging. The betting sites are not allowed to offer monetary incentives to entice gamblers to sign up. I can live with that. Let's hope the House can. Fingers crossed.

Race entries picked up for us. I will try to keep up and send notices more frequently. Thank you for all your support.

–Rebecca

Race Review

Hartful Hope, bred in North Carolina by Art Bauer, shown winning at Horseshoe Indianapolis May 22. ©Coady Photography

Hartful Hope, by Central Banker out of She's Stylish, by Posse, won at Horseshoe Indianapolis May 22 for breeder Art Bauer and owners Gerard Eckhardt and George and Debra Eckhardt of Jimmer Racing. The 3-year-old dark bay filly broke her maiden in the fourth start of her career in gut-wrenching action. Running 6 furlongs in 1:11.22, the North Carolina-bred stalked the pace while going three wide around the turn, moved into the two-lane battling down the stretch neck and neck, and pulled away at the sixteenth pole to win by a half length running.

Lil Miss Moonlight, by City of Light out of Sacred Luna, by Malibu Moon, won at Horseshoe Indianapolis May 24 for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 1 1/16 miles on a firm turf course in 1:46.11. She was unhurried running on the inside early, angled out to the four-path at the three-eighths pole, gained ground near the top of the stretch, and went clear, winning by a length.

Cainudothetwist, by Americain out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr, ran second at Brookland Woods in Charlotte, N.C., for breeders William and Carrington Price. The 6-year-old bay mare ran 2½ miles over fences and finished 1 length behind the victor.

Sag Harbor (Palace out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado-Ire) came in second at Mountaineer May 14 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 6-year-old chestnut horse went 6 furlongs on a fast track and finished 1¾ lengths behind the winner.

Admonish, a North Carolina-bred by Mosler out of Adjudicate, by Jump Start, finished second at Thistledown May 23 for breeder William Thompson Jr. The 5-year-

old dark bay mare ran 1 mile and 70 yards and was 2¼ lengths behind the front-running winner.

Flat Out Flying (Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) ran second in a starter allowance at Parx Racing May 24 for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 7-year-old chestnut gelding seeking his 17th career win went 1 mile and 70 yards and was well clear of the third-place finisher.

Lil Miss Moonlight winning at Horseshoe Indianapolis. © Coady Photography

Hitting the Board

April 25 – May 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
26-Apr	Fairview	Penn National	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	3rd
29-Apr	Cainudothetwist	Brookland Woods - Charlotte	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price	2nd
4-May	Sag Harbor	Belterra Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
6-May	Allegheny Hero	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	3rd
10-May	Admonish (NC)	Thistledown	Bred by Bill Thompson	3rd
11-May	Fairview	Penn National	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	3rd
14-May	Sag Harbor	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
17-May	Fletcher	Parx Racing	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	3rd
22-May	Hartful Hope (NC)	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Bred by A.Bauer, owned by Eckhardt, G&D Eckhardt	WINNER!
23-May	Admonish (NC)	Thistledown	Bred by Bill Thompson	2nd
23-May	Loki's Lightning	Fort Erie	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
23-May	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
24-May	Lil Miss Moonlight	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	WINNER!

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595 • www.ncthoroughbred.com • ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

Rebecca Montaldo,** president; **Jimmy Teal,** treasurer; Directors: **Elizabeth Houck, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

July/August 2023
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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Caravel destined for Breeders' Cup Success

By Nikki Sherman

When Caravel was an unraced 2-year-old in training at Fair Hill, her exercise rider boldly told owner/trainer/breeder Elizabeth Merryman, "This is a Breeders' Cup horse!" Hearing those words put the lofty idea in Merryman's mind early. That exercise rider had regularly ridden 2008 Eclipse Award Champion Grass Mare Forever Together, who captured the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf-G1 the same year, so she knew the caliber of horse required to win the biggest races of the year.

Merryman acquired Caravel's dam Zeezee Zoomzoom from a friend who called to tell her about a Congrats mare in Florida that was being retired from racing due to a tendon injury. She was interested in "Zeezee" so she had the mare shipped to Kentucky where she was bred to Mizzen Mast. Merryman chose the stallion because he was an affordable option and, while he was not a flashy sire at the sales, she wanted foals that she could raise and race herself. She also had a sneaking suspicion that her new mare just might be a turf producer.

"I had never taken a mare for free but I liked her pedigree enough to ship her back home after she was bred," said Merryman. "When Zeezee got here she was absolutely wild and I thought, 'What am I going to do with this?' She was going after the other mares in the field and was the alpha right away."

Zeezee Zoomzoom gave birth on Merryman's Pennsylvania farm on March 1, 2017, producing a dark bay filly that would eventually lighten to a flashy dapple gray. Merryman had hoped that Zeezee would calm down with a foal of her own but that was not the case at all. She was mean to her foal, though not quite to the extent that the two needed to be separated. The young filly who would be named Caravel learned to stick up for herself early and that carried forward into her racing career, especially during grueling stretch drives.

"I keep a journal for myself and I recently looked back to see what I wrote about Caravel," Merryman said. "I had written that she was the nicest foal I'd ever had. She was so sweet but really learned how to be tough from the start."

When Caravel debuted as a 3-year-old at Penn National Race Course June 24, she showed that tenacity, remembered Merryman.

"The gate opened and she just stood there. I was shocked since she had always been quick to break in training and I really thought she was going to be a nice racehorse. She was looking around and suddenly realized, 'Oh, I'm supposed to go fast?' She was far behind but caught up to them and flew right past everyone!"

After being last of 10 and nearly a dozen lengths behind early, Caravel won that

5½-furlong maiden special weight by 1¼ lengths and became a star in Pennsylvania with victories including the $75,000 Lake Erie Stakes and the PA-Bred $80,000 Malvern Rose Stakes at Presque Isle.

At that time, Merryman placed Caravel in her daughter Liza Hendrik's new online auction website called Wanamaker's, setting a "dream price" as the reserve. She really didn't want to sell Caravel but she was concerned that personal health issues might affect her ability to properly train such a talented filly. Her son McLane Hendriks was learning but wasn't quite ready to take over for Elizabeth as a trainer.

"We received calls from all over the country and a lot of people did pre-purchase exams on her," said Merryman. "She ended up not hitting her reserve but I did work out a deal with someone where I kept 25 percent of her. She moved to Graham Motion's barn so I was happy since he's good with turf horses."

Before the trainer transfer, Merryman also sent Caravel to victories in the $100,000 The Very One Stakes, $78,000 Goldwood Stakes and the Grade 3 $200,000 Caress Stakes at Saratoga.

Unfortunately, after moving to the new barn Caravel was not very successful. She did contest the 2021 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 at Del Mar but finished last of 12. Her majority owner decided to sell her a few days later at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's The November Sale. Merryman was very disappointed and along with a partner tried to buy back Caravel, however they were outbid in the end.

"I was afraid that she would be retired as a broodmare after the sale," Merryman said. "I thought she had a lot more potential and she should get another shot at the Breeders' Cup. But the great thing is, now I have a close relationship with her owners and they keep me informed and involved with everything."

Those owners are Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel and Madaket Stables LLC, and Caravel is now trained by Brad Cox. Since their purchase, the PA-Bred has won eight of 11 starts, including a brilliant 43-1 upset victory against the boys in the 2022 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1, making Merryman's dream come true.

The best part is that Caravel stayed in training for her 6-year-old campaign this year. She is undefeated in three 2023 starts including two graded stakes wins against the boys. Most recently she held off 13 competitors to capture the Grade 1 Jaipur Stakes by three-quarters of a length on Belmont Stakes Day, a Breeders' Cup Challenge Series "Win and You're In" race for the Turf Sprint.

There was a brief period of time in which her connections considered sending her across the Atlantic Ocean to race at the prestigious Royal Ascot meet. Running a PA-Bred against the very best turf horses in the world was a truly exciting idea, but in the end she stayed stateside for the Jaipur with an even better goal in mind. Caravel is en route to Santa Anita Park in November where she will seek to defend her title in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. With luck, talent and tenacity, Caravel just may indeed make even more Breeders' Cup dreams come true.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Belmont Saturday was a great day for Pennsylvania. Caravel, bred by Liz Merryman, beat the boys once again, taking the Grade 1 Jaipur Stakes and guaranteeing a spot in this year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Wow, what a mare!

Angel of Empire, bred by Christian Black, finished a valiant fourth in the Belmont after running wide almost the entire race. He's definitely full of heart! Congrats to all the connections.

The PA-Bred PA-Sired 2yo Stallion Series begins next month. The first two stakes in the $1,000,000 series will be run on Aug. 21, PA Day at the Races. Don't forget about the $50,000 series trainer bonus for the top three point-earning horses. Nominations for the 2023 series for 2yos, if not already nominated, are $1,000 for those purchased at a public or private sale and nominated by June 30. After that the fee will be $5,000. You can go to pabred.com under 'Horses Nominated' to see if your horse is on the list. If not, go to 'Forms' and print the nomination form. Don't have a PA-Sired PA-Bred? Contact a Pa Breeder by looking at our 2023 Stallion Directory. Please remember that if your horse is already nominated, you still MUST CALL the PARX racing office to enter your nomination by July 10.

Last call for Broodmares that were not in the state by Dec. 1, 2022, or within 14 days of a public sale (within 60 days of a sale outside the U.S.). They must be bred back to a PA-Sire. We ask that you submit all broodmare domicile forms online. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Have a great second half of 2023 and Go PA!

PA-BRED
BREEDERS' CUP CHAMP
CARAVEL
Sailing Home
WITH HER
FIFTH
STRAIGHT WIN
JAIPUR STAKES
GRADE 1 WINNER
AT BELMONT PARK
AGAINST THE BOYS!
PENNSYLVANIA BREEDER:
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THE JAIPUR
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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through April 30, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	128,821	54,036	182,857	Shirley A. Lojeski	59,539	0	59,539
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	119,366	119,366	Barbara A. Rickline	45,516	7,692	53,208
Richard N. Miller	99,155	18,172	117,326	Peter Giangiulio	48,562	0	48,562
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	37,631	76,483	114,114	R H Breeding LLC	46,925	0	46,925
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	73,884	34,526	108,410	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	46,697	0	46,697
St. Omer's Farm	102,440	0	102,440	Richard Molineaux	45,305	0	45,305
Glenn E. Brok LLC	72,992	24,792	97,784	Susan C. Quick	44,684	0	44,684
Warriors Reward	60,577	27,536	88,113	Patricia L. Chapman	37,699	3,471	41,170
Maria M. Haire	73,520	5,047	78,567	Angelo Zalalas	40,780	0	40,780
Blackstone Farm LLC	74,372	0	74,372	Chuck Russo	30,585	6,783	37,368
William J. Solomon VMD	35,196	35,501	70,697	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	36,624	0	36,624
LC Racing LLC	65,672	0	65,672	Emilie Bateman	33,200	0	33,200

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	75	76,483	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	17	9,111
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	127	54,036	Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	17	8,831
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	138	48,222	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	31	8,247
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	70	34,526	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	15	7,692
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	83	31,298	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	38	7,602
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	66	27,536	Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	3	7,078
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	16	24,012	Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	24	6,832
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	40	17,233	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	14	6,801
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	23	16,190	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	18	6,783
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	27	15,820	Last Gunfighter	William J. Solomon VMD	23	5,459
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	36	12,371	Eclipticalspraline	Maria M. Haire	10	5,047
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	32	9,868	Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	7	3,471

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	4	20,000	67,984	16,996	28,560	133,540
Twisted Ride	Great Notion - Diva's Gold	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	5	56,400	36,624	0	13,920	106,944
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	3	9,400	44,684	11,171	28,560	93,815
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	1	60,000	12,000	0	0	72,000
Ninetypercentbrynn *	Weigelia - Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	3	10,000	36,968	9,242	13,920	70,130
Social Success *	Social Inclusion - Schuylkilla	Shirley A. Lojeski	4	0	48,216	11,580	5,040	64,836
Date Night Kisses *	Weigelia - Tribal Verse	Emilie Bateman	3	0	33,200	8,300	22,080	63,580
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	5	0	30,656	7,664	16,480	54,800
Geebert *	Albert the Great - Gee Pari	Richard Molineaux	5	0	27,362	6,841	17,816	52,019
For the Dreamers *	Talent Search - Avery's Smile	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	3	0	25,872	6,468	18,480	50,820
Midnight In Alaska *	Almasty - Working At Night	Maria M. Haire	3	0	31,862	7,078	10,080	49,020
Rolls Royce Joyce *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	5	0	23,677	5,919	16,912	46,508
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	1	0	20,832	5,208	14,880	40,920
Captain Chazz *	Weigelia - Sundays On the Bay	Glenn E. Brok LLC	3	0	19,488	4,872	13,920	38,280
Windsor Gold	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	5	0	18,334	0	19,920	38,254
Castilleja *	Lord Shanakill - La Mure	Norman George Lewis	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Diesel *	Peace and Justice - Really a Gem	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Mary Q *	Social Inclusion - Musket Mary	Michael M. Moore	1	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
That'stony'ssister *	Uncle Lino - Not Very Ladylike	Peter Giangiulio	4	0	24,408	5,352	6,720	36,480
Johnny Ritt *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Barbara Wheeler	4	0	18,200	4,550	13,000	35,750
Wishing Ona Prayer *	Xixixi - Fringe Benefits	Barbara A. Rickline	2	0	19,152	4,284	12,240	35,676
Hop On Me *	Hoppertunity - Socially Driven	Richard A. Malouf	5	0	23,215	5,054	5,868	34,137
Northern Express *	Bullsbay - A Wing and a Song	UM Holdings Ltd.	2	0	16,699	4,175	11,928	32,802
Harley's Charly *	Uptowncharlybrown - Harley Go Lightly	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	2	0	22,700	4,540	4,400	31,640

**Denotes PA-sired*

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

July 2023

Horsemen:

This year's PTHA's Owner Appreciation Day was a great success, thanks to each and every one of you. That day, more so than any other day in the calendar year, allows us to thank, acknowledge, and appreciate all of the great owners here at Parx Racing that make up the PTHA Membership. The day was capped off with a well-attended luncheon, followed by the PTHA giving away new merchandise, highlighting our brand and logo.

On the track, the day culminated with the annual running of the PTHA President's Cup, a $75,000 stake for fillies and mares over our grass course. Earlier in the card, we had a race named in acknowledgment of our scholarship recipients, The PTHA Charities Inc. 2023 Scholarship Recipients; following the running of the race, all recipients and their families posed for the winning photo!

We thank all applicants this year as we look to take PTHA Charities to the next level. Staying committed to our three E's: essentials, education, and experiences. Focusing on daily essentials to improve the lives of each and every backstretch employee will always be paramount; it's the main reason the PTHA exists: Horsemen Helping Horsemen.

Jeff Matty, Jr.
PTHA Executive Director

With the Triple Crown season wrapped up, the PTHA & Parx will continue to keep a close eye on the three-year-old division. This year, similar to previous years, we will offer a $50,000 Owner / Trainer bonus to any Grade 1 winner who runs in the Pennsylvania Derby. Topping our 2022 Derby will be our goal, no easy feat as we handled just under $19 million. Mark your calendars now! Saturday, September 23, 2023, will be the best day in Pennsylvania racing this year, PA DERBY DAY!

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PTHA Charities, Inc

The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association established The Granny Fund in March 2000 as a memorial to Catherine "Granny" Youmans, the mother of longtime PTHA Secretary, Connie Youmans. Granny, as everyone at the track knew her, was a fixture on the backstretch at picnics, banquets, ball games, etc. Throughout her life, she talked to people about getting, continuing, and using their education to better themselves and their families. Granny was adamant about people bettering themselves through education, hard work, and life experiences and relationships.

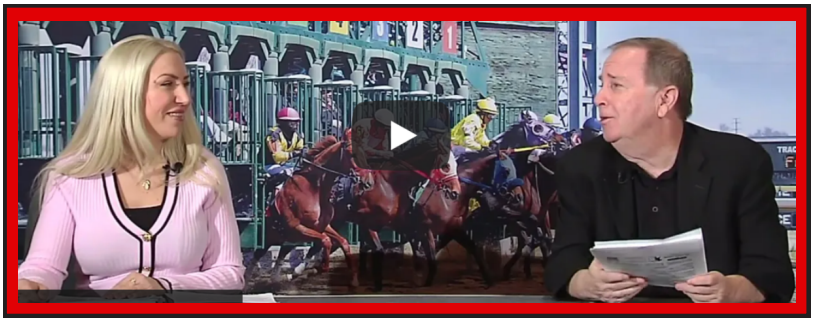
On February 22, 2000, we lost Catherine "Granny" Youmans; there could not have been a better memorial established than a scholarship fund in her name to aid stable employees and their dependents within the PTHA and Parx community.

People have donated to The Granny Fund over the years, some after hitting a winning daily double or crossing the finish line first in a race here at Parx, others in memory of a loved one, and some "just because." Cash is King and LC Racing have been our most generous benefactors, especially during Covid times.

The fund has been used to assist many young and not-so-young, stable employees in furthering their education, whether in college or through night classes, for the benefit of our entire community.

The PTHA Charity, Inc., selected eight candidates for the Granny Fund this year and granted them a total of $8,000 based on new guidelines and a committee evaluation. Congratulation to: Josif Collazo, David Cowan, Jessica DiPatri, Bryan Estrada, Nicole Jimenez, Logan Martel, Nicole Pessanha and Troy Matty!

If you are interested in donating to the PTHA Charities, Inc. please contact the PTHA office at 215-638-2012.



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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023

Racing Across the Nation

When Nimitz Class captured the Native Dancer Stakes at Laurel Park April 29, he was winning his fourth stakes race in a row. He bested the fields in the Robert T. Manfuso Stakes Dec. 30, John B. Campbell Feb. 18 and Harrison E. Johnson Memorial March 18. All of these races were held at Laurel Park. Nimitz Class has since won an allowance at Parx Racing May 22.

A graduate of Randy and Kala Rentz's training center in Erhardt, S.C., Nimitz Class dueled early between foes in the Native Dancer before opening up a large lead. His mind may have wandered some during the stretch run as his lead started to shrink, but he held on to win by 2¾ lengths.

Nimitz Class is a 4-year-old son of Munnings out of Five Diamonds, by Flatter. He was bred and is owned by Tom Coulter. The trainer is Bruce Kravets. In 16 lifetime starts, Nimitz Class has recorded 10 wins and $464,880 in earnings.

SC Equine Advancement Act Update

The 125th South Carolina legislative session has wrapped up. The S.C. Equine Advancement Act was passed by the House of Representatives, but time ran out before it came to a Senate vote. This was the first year of the two-year session and Senators will be able to pick up where they left off on the bill in 2024.

Over the past few months, we've seen an outpouring of support for the S.C. Equine Advancement Act from horse enthusiasts, equine-based organizations, and a large number of South Carolina legislators. We are happy where we are ➡

South Carolina attorney has ownership interest in Kentucky Derby Starter

The dream of every Thoroughbred racehorse owner is to be at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May to watch their horse run in the Kentucky Derby. This dream came true for Charleston attorney Joe Rice this year. More and more horses are owned by partnerships, a concept introduced by Dogwood Stable's Cot Campbell in the early 1970s.

Joe Rice took this path, purchasing an interest in Confidence Game, a Candy Ride (Arg) colt who earned entry into the Kentucky Derby when capturing the Rebel Stakes-G2 at Oaklawn Park in February. The program owner is Don't Tell My Wife Stables and Confidence Game is trained by Keith Desormeaux.

While Confidence Game finished mid-pack, owning a Kentucky Derby starter is an unforgettable happening, made more special when you can share the experience with family and friends.

SC consignors active at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Sale

Longtime South Carolina-based 2-year-olds in training sales consignors were busy at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Timonium May 22-23. Cary Frommer sold 17 who brought a total of $1,476,000. The highlights were a Maximus Mischief colt selling for $250,000, a Violence colt for $185,000, an American Pharoah colt for $180,000 and another Maximus Mischief colt, who was knocked down for $100,000. Also consigned by Frommer were colts by Twirling Candy, Take Charge Indy, Liam's Map, Mendelssohn, Good Magic, Upstart and Nyquist. She sold fillies by Maximus Mischief, Connect, Sky Mesa, two fillies by Madefromlucky and a Mitole filly.

James Layden sold five for a total of $642,000, including three individuals for six figure prices. Layden's Speightstown colt commanded a $265,000 price tag. He also sold a Bolt d'Oro colt for $180,000 and a Not This Time filly for $125,000. A gelding by Cloud Computing and a filly by Maximus Mischief completed his consignment.

Wes Carter also sold five, for a total of $222,000. He consigned three fillies, by Practical Joke, War Dancer and Golden Lad. Carter also sold a colt by Mor Spirit and a gelding by The Factor.

Undefeated at 2, Maximus Mischief was a black-type winner of three races in four starts. He was prepared for his racing career by Cary Frommer in Aiken. His first crop are 2-year-olds this year.

in getting the bill passed by the House of Representatives and to the floor of the Senate.

We are confident as we enter the "legislative offseason," and plan to continue gaining further legislative and public support for the S.C. Equine Advancement Act. We will now begin to prepare for the 2024 legislative session through grassroots and public relations activities.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Miss M M	Aiken - Mason Springs	04/21/23	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Allen Diggs	Travis Durr Training Center	04/22/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Lohengrin Two	Rentz Training Center	04/22/23	Aqueduct	Allowance
Secret Money	Travis Durr Training Center	04/23/23	Keeneland	Maiden Special Weight
Sue Ellen Mishkin	Travis Durr Training Center	04/25/23	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Midnight Warship	Aiken - Cary Frommer	04/26/23	Thistledown	Allowance
Downhurst	Elloree Training Center	04/27/23	Gulfstream Park	Maiden Special Weight
Sofia's Friend	Aiken - Cary Frommer	04/27/23	Penn National	Allowance
Doctor Abbie	Rentz Training Center	04/28/23	Penn National	Allowance
All Threes	Ellorre Training Center	04/29/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Miss Stones	Travis Durr Training Center	04/29/23	Aqueduct	Maiden Special Weight
NIMITZ CLASS	Rentz Training Center	04/29/23	Laurel Park	Native Dancer S
Irish Valentine	Rentz Training Center	04/29/23	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Family Tree	Aiken - Neil Morris	04/29/23	Foxfield	Maiden Hurdle
Too Legit	Travis Durr Training Center	05/01/23	Mountaineer	Starter Allowance
Big Cheeks	Travis Durr Training Center	05/01/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Big Ambition	Travis Durr Training Center	05/02/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Irish Cork	Rentz Training Center	05/02/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Paynter Party	Elloree Training Center	05/03/23	Evangeline Downs	Allowance
Grey's the Boy	Travis Durr Training Center	05/03/23	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Capital Conquest	Travis Durr Training Center	05/03/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
On the Mark	Elloree Training Center	05/04/23	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Mystic Pleasure	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/04/23	Oaklawn Park	Maiden Special Weight
Amanda's Folly	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/04/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
Indulge	Aiken - Cary Frommer	05/05/23	Santa Anita	Allowance
Merry Maker	Arch Kingsley	05/06/23	VA Gold Cup	Allowance
Prerequisite	Aiken - Mason Springs	05/07/23	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Talented Man	Travis Durr Training Center	05/08/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Boss Like Beth	Rentz Training Center	05/09/23	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Horn of Plenty	Rentz Training Center	05/09/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Musical Cat	Travis Durr Training Center	05/10/23	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Commingling	Rentz Training Center	05/10/23	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Cinderella's Cause	Travis Durr Training Center	05/11/23	Belmont Park	Allowance
Out of Ammo	Rentz Training Center	05/11/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Moonin Rusty	Travis Durr Training Center	05/12/23	Delta Downs	Allowance
Prognosticate	McCutchen Training Center	05/12/23	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Clubman	Aiken - Cary Frommer	05/12/23	Pimlico	Allowance
Family Tree	Aiken - Neil Morris	05/13/23	Iroquois	Allowance
Barbados	Arch Kingsley	05/13/23	Iroquois	Maiden Hurdle
L'Imperator	Arch Kingsley	05/13/23	Iroquois	Maiden Hurdle
Wild Mule	Travis Durr Training Center	05/14/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
It's Viper	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/14/23	Pimlico	Allowance
Solving Progress	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/14/23	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Granato	Travis Durr Training Center	05/16/23	Indiana Grand	Maiden Special Weight
Wortherweightngold	Rentz Training Center	05/16/23	Thistledown	Allowance
Kobe B	Elloree Training Center	05/17/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
America Rules	Elloree Training Center	05/17/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Allowance
Winnin'onweekends	Rentz Training Center	05/17/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
My Blue Eyes	Rentz Training Center	05/18/23	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Secret Money	Travis Durr Training Center	05/20/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Bustin Lulu	Travis Durr Training Center	05/20/23	Belmont Park	Starter Allowance
Jay Jay Dee	Rentz Training Center	05/20/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Threepete	Rentz Training Center	05/20/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Minister for Magic	Aiken - Legacy Stable	05/21/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR COLONIAL DOWNS SUMMER MEET OPENING JULY 13 UNDER CDI OWNERSHIP

The 2023 thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs is just around the corner and preparations are underway to make the 9-week meet in New Kent — the first since Churchill Downs Inc. (CDI) purchased it — the best ever.

The season will extend from July 13 - September 9 with racing every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 1:30 PM. All of Colonial's races will be televised on FanDuel TV or FanDuel Racing. The barn area in New Kent opened June 19 and training began on June 22.

An average of $600,000-plus in purse money will be distributed daily. A record $5.2 million stakes schedule is highlighted by the relocation of a pair of Grade 1 stakes — the Arlington Million and $500,000 Beverly D — in addition to the $500,000, Grade 2 Secretariat Stakes. Another highlight is the 20th running of the Grade 3, $500,000 New Kent County Virginia Derby on September 9 when $1.3 million in stakes purses will be on the line.

The Arlington Million card, scheduled for Saturday August 12, is being branded as the "Colonial Downs Festival of Racing" program. The Beverly D, which is now a Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win and You're In" race in the Filly & Mare Turf division, is on the card along with the Secretariat Stakes — which both will be contested over Colonial's signature Secretariat Turf Course. The massive grass course, 180 feet in width, is named for the elite Virginia-bred who captured America's fascination 50 years ago when he won the Triple Crown in record setting fashion at all three legs.

The August 12 Million date remains on the traditional weekend that the internationally renowned trio of stakes had been held at Arlington International Racecourse — on the second Saturday of August. The Million will be run at 1-1/4 miles, the Beverly D at 1-3/16 miles and the Secretariat at one mile.

The Virginia Derby will carry a purse of $500,000 — $200,000 more than in 2022 — while the purse of its sister race, the (Listed) Virginia Oaks, has been kicked up $50,000 to $250,000 this year. Also on the stakes-filled closing day card is the $150,000 Da Hoss, $150,000 Colonial Cup, $125,000 Rosie's and $125,000 Kitten's Joy Stakes -- all on turf.

A rooftop view of Colonial Downs. The 9-week season will run with a more fan friendly race schedule this summer (VEA photo).

Opening Saturday, July 15 features four $125,000 stakes for Virginia-bred/sired horses — the Edward P. Evans at one mile, the Punch Line at 5-1/2 furlongs, the M. Tyson Gilpin/Glen Petty for fillies and mares at 5-1/2 furlongs and the Brookmeade for fillies and mares at 1-1/16 miles.

The next round of stakes featuring Commonwealth connected horses is on Saturday September 2 with the $125,000 Jamestown Stakes for Virginia-bred/sired 2-year-olds at 5-1/2 furlongs along with a four-pack of $150,000 stakes for Virginia-restricted horses — the Meadow Stable for older horses at 5-1/2 furlongs and its female companion race, the Camptown, and the Bert Allen and its filly and mare counterpart, the Nellie Mae Cox, both at 1-1/16 miles.

Beverly D

2023 logo for the Grade 1 Beverly D which will be contested August 12 at Colonial Downs.

A pair of NSA steeplechase races will be contested every Friday as races one and two, and unlike the last several years, they will be part of the track's pari-mutuel offering. In addition to single race wagers, the jump pair can be bet as an early daily double and as part of the early Pick-3's. Featured steeplechase events this summer include the $75,000 Randolph D. Rouse Stakes on August 11 and the $75,000 Life's Illusion Stakes on September 8 -- both for fillies and mares. The former will be contested at 2-1/4 miles while the latter will be at two miles.

Owner and trainer bonus incentives are a big highlight of the meet too. Owners will receive the greater of $1,000 or their share of purse money from each race while trainers will receive $300 per horse started.

Owners of Virginia-bred and Virginia-sired horses will earn a 50% bonus on 1st through 4th place finishes in all open races. Developers of Virginia-certified horses will earn 25% more for wins in

open races and Breeders of Virginia-bred horses will earn awards for all wins at Colonial, in addition to any win in North America.

Training on the main track will be available every day but Sunday and turf training will be available one day a week. The first of two condition books is online at colonialdowns.com/horsemen.

Colonial Downs is bringing back the Pick-6 wager for 2023 and will be adding a second daily Pick-5 all at reduced takeout levels. The Old Dominion 6 will be offered as a classic Pick-6 with a 15% takeout on the final six races daily. After a successful debut in 2022, an early and late 50-cent Pick-5 will feature a low 12% takeout rate. The early bet will cover the first five flat races while the late one will include the final five races.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA) members can enjoy action every day in the VTA's two Hospitality Sky Suites on the 4th floor of the complex. On race days, VTA members can simply take an elevator to the 4th floor level and present member credentials to receive access to Suites 4 & 5 which feature balcony views overlooking the homestretch. Light appetizers and beverages will be served.

Special event day celebrations will be held as well during the meet. The VTA/VAHBPA Opening Day Picnic will be held in HBPA building on the backstretch from 12 Noon - 3:30 PM on July 13. A similar luncheon will be held on September 2 — Virginia-Restricted Stakes Day — with a location still to be determined. Virginia-Bred Stakes Day on July 15 will include extra hospitality in the suites. A Legislators Day paid event will take place on

Colonial Downs Senior Director of Racing Operations Frank Hopf shown overlooking the New Kent track (VEA photo).

Colonial's Secretariat Turf Course will play host to all stakes on Arlington Million and Virginia Derby Days (Coady Photography photo).

Arlington Million Day in the two suites and 4th floor Ballroom. Virginia Derby Day festivities have yet to be finalized at press time. More details along with RSVP instructions are available at vabred.org. The annual HBPA Golf Tournament to benefit Shannon Campbell and the Disabled Jockeys Fund will be held Sunday August 13 with details coming soon.

Fans will again enjoy free parking and free admission every day with one exception — "Festival of Racing" day when admission will be $25. Five different giveaway days are scheduled including a Baseball Cap on opening day and T-Shirt on August 11.

COLONIAL DOWNS TO OPEN ITS SEVENTH HISTORICAL HORSE RACING/OTB SITE

Colonial Downs Group LLC received permission at the June 6 Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) meeting to open a new "Rosie's" satellite wagering center in Emporia, Virginia and conduct pari-mutuel wagering on Historical Horse Racing (HHR) there. The site will feature 150 HHR terminals, an OTB with two teller stations and six self bet machines, an R-Burger diner and an entertainment stage. This will be the seventh Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Virginia and the first one built from the ground up. Opening is set for late September. The location is right off I-95 and will be visible to cars heading to and from North Carolina. Projected annual handle is $6 million from simulcasting and $373 million from HHR.

REVISED DEFINITION OF "VIRGINIA-BRED" HORSE ADDRESSED AT VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION MEETING

A revised definition of a Virginia-bred horse was also approved at the recent VRC meeting. A Virginia-bred thoroughbred horse refers to a registered thoroughbred horse foaled in Virginia. Beginning with foals of 2024, the foal's dam must also domicile in Virginia from September 1st of the year of conception and reside in Virginia until she foals the following year.

VTA Executive Director Debbie Easter noted the Breeders' Fund will be rising from $1.2 million to over $2 miillion in the near future and that, combined with the revised definition, will help build up the mare population in Virginia. Pending VRC approval later this year, the fund will pay Virginia breeders and stallion owners awards for first thru third place — instead of just wins. More details and related registration forms are available at vabred.org.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

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Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Janet de Teran, Alan Hutchinson, Larry Johnson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Sara Miller, Patricia Ramey, Brooke Royster, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor

Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news
For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.
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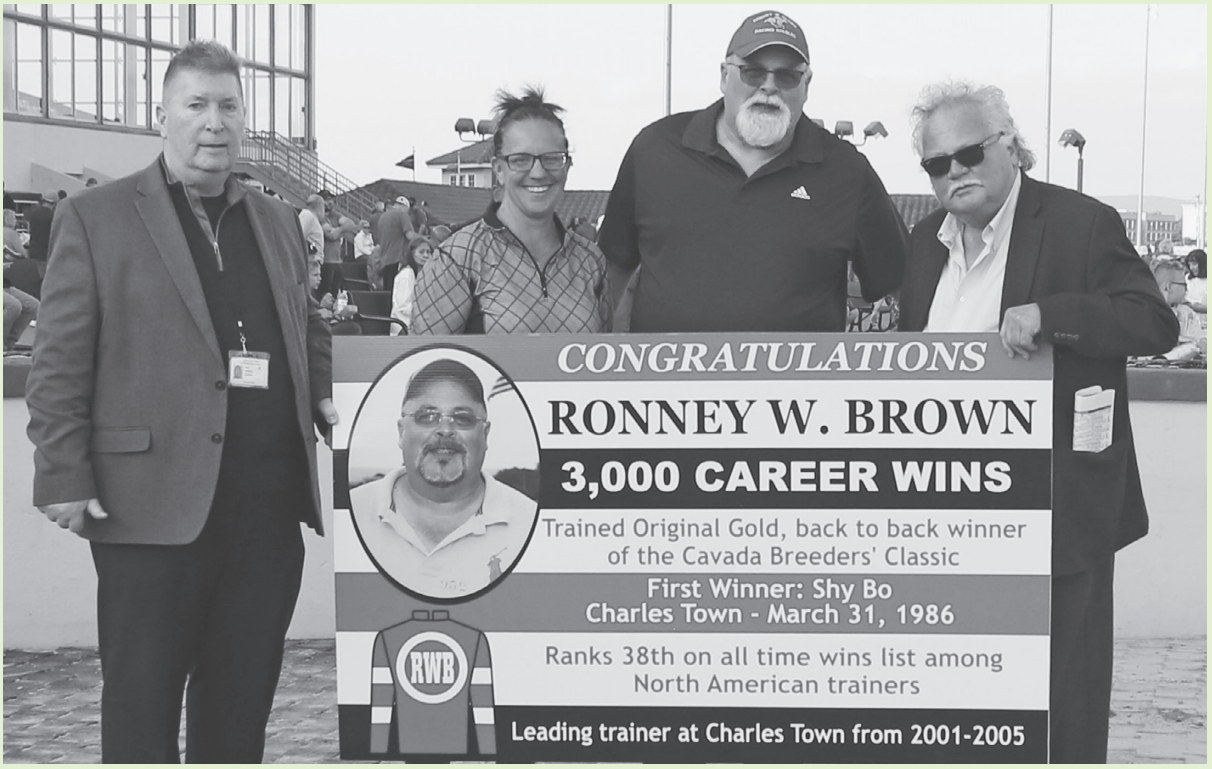
Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter July/August 2023

Win 3,000 for Ronney W. Brown

By Jeff Gilleas


CONGRATULATIONS
RONNEY W. BROWN
3,000 CAREER WINS
Trained Original Gold, back to back winner of the Cavada Breeders' Classic
First Winner: Shy Bo
Charles Town - March 31, 1986
Ranks 38th on all time wins list among North American trainers
Leading trainer at Charles Town from 2001-2005
RWB

As the national press persists in covering the "Debacle at the Derby," locally a pleasing facet of our sport made headlines. Like the union of two formidable personalities, Thoroughbred horse racing and Ronney W. Brown are eternally intertwined.

Saturday, May 13, the 62-year-old native of Frederick, Md., celebrated a milestone by winning his 3,000th career race. The man dubbed "The Gentle Giant" has worked tirelessly for this achievement, confirming he has not only paid his dues, but possesses the constitution for this matchless enterprise.

The competition at Charles Town are clearly aware of Brown.

His grinding style parlayed a statistical record-breaking 2022 into his current third-place position in the standings. Claiming horses continue to be the building block of his 50-horse stable on this highly competitive circuit, but with the recent acquisition of a farm, stallions and broodmares, beating sunrise to the barn will soon have added incentives.

Alongside his wife, Nicole, and a large cheering section in the grandstand, Ronney humbly accepted belated congratulations from Director of Racing Charlie McIntosh following the first race on Friday, May 19.

At Barn 2, Ronney shares the stage with a supportive network of

employees, a melting pot of owners, and his valuable assistant Ruben Reyes.

Castle Lights, a daughter of Windsor Castle and Strolling North, is emblematic of the kind of runners Brown seeks to support and defend his robust stable numbers. When dropped into a $10,000 claiming race this past February, Brown was quick to put a halter on the Taylor Mountain Farm-bred for his brother Kenny. After a brief period of rest and recuperation, Castle Lights returned to run a huge race in allowance company and place Ronney Brown in the record books while rewarding her backers with a $40.60 mutuel ticket.

Trainers like Brown are a racing secretary's dream, as they help keep numbers at the entry box anything but anemic. The man who saddled his first winner in 1986 is now looked upon with reverence as an elder statesman in the racing community, while a frequent visitor to racing's most iconic curiosity. . . the winner's circle.

LEADING THE STALLION CHARGE

I was having a conversation with a fellow keyboard warrior about Ronney Brown's 3,000th career win, when the silhouette of a past champion came to mind.

Down Town Allen, the millionaire daughter of Windsor Castle out of Like Down Town, was the ultimate tribute for a stallion that endowed the attributes of speed and stamina.

Windsor Castle passed at the age of 22, but in a current listing of West Virginia stallions, still enjoys the top spot in money earned this year. Though the window of opportunities may be closing soon, and the shelf life of horses like Castle Lights, Ellies Lil Castle, Jamestown Road, Coach Rube, Secret Castle and Noid are uncertain, they stand out as their sire's current noteworthy contributors.

THE COIN COLLECTOR

The Coin Collector Stakes for sophomores was named for a West Virginia-bred runner who stretched the limits of his modest pedigree and humble surroundings to become an influential racing talent.

Saturday night, May 13, his enterprising career seemed reincarnated in the character of winner Little Roo Roo, who incorporated the feeling of competitive timelessness in his performance, while representing a family that could call Charles Town Races an oasis of hope. Owned and trained by Michael Jones Jr., Little Roo Roo, a gelded son of Limehouse out of the Bop mare Pepper Bay answered the bell for his initial stakes try with a resounding knockout punch.

Horses can be temperamental creatures that often dip in and out of form; carbon copy Little Roo Roo. After an anemic juvenile campaign, where he appeared easily distracted, his 3-year-old season transformation has truly discovered wealth as the object lesson of life's journey.

In five starts this year, LRR has four wins and earned over $107,000. Bred by Sherwood Bryant, the chestnut's dam Pepper Bay interestingly gained her only black-type in the Eleanor Casey Memorial (mother to John Casey – owner of Coin Collector), and Sylvia Bishop Memorial (Michael Jones' grandmother).

Despite a sloppy track, and a start that had the lone filly in the field, Great Spirit, exchanging multiple bumps, Little Roo Roo sported a strong set of gears in the stretch when given his head by jockey Marshall Mendez, leaving 4-5 favorite and pacesetter Honeyquist in his wake, with second-choice Great Spirit winding up fifth.

OBSERVATIONS

According to a thought-provoking piece detailing Preakness week, a Maryland-bred hadn't won the second jewel of the Triple Crown since 1983. Sitting in the clubhouse dining room that day, courtesy of my father, little did I realize that a 40-year drought would ensue after Deputed Testimony splashed to victory.

In the Charles Town secretaries office, longtime jockey agent Gordon Becraft (Donnie Miller's agent for the 1983 Preakness win), shed light on the rarity of an extraordinary racing experience. The spirit of that conversation transported me to 2019, when a West Virginia-bred by Fiber Sonde shook the racing world by winning the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic. Runnin'toluvya, bred by Leslie Cromer and owned by Tim and Judy Grams, went on to earn $1,101, 975 in 30 starts, while recording 16 wins.

• Meghan Marshall Lucas, dedicated employee of Taylor Mountain Farm, informed me that Juba bred 60 mares this year, and the response to Candygram, a son of Candy Ride (Arg) has been bullish.

• Congratulations go out to Mare's Nest Farm and Dr. Maurice Casey, breeder of two Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-olds sold at the May sale in Timonium. The West Virginia-breds were a filly by Mo Town out of Can't Steal My Joy sold for $120,000 to Baccari Bloodstock, agent for D.W.F. Inc.; and a colt by Midshipman out of Said in Silence purchased by Larry Rabold for $45,000.

• Major player in the West Virginia breeding industry, Amanda Moro, capped off another stellar season by foaling 50-plus mares at her Blue Spruce Farm.

• Director of Racing Charles McIntosh exclaimed that according to estimates, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races is presently the number one nighttime simulcast signal, by handle, in the country.

• Thanks to Ronney Brown and wife Nicole as they epitomize true gamblers, going all-in on West Virginia racing /breeding.

•John Funkhouser gets my vote for the individual who has tried to modernize and revitalize West Virginia Thoroughbred breeding. John's cognitive process and youthful twist at O'Sullivan Farms makes use of an older business model (partnerships), while adding racing's future–syndications.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Charting a course to Racing's Hall of Fame

It felt like a long and winding road to owner Sonny Via and trainer Jack Fisher

By Betsy Burke Parker

Sonny Via remembers feeling a little shy, almost sheepish, at cocktail hour before collecting the 2007 Eclipse Award. His Good Night Shirt had run away with the voting that year, winning three grade 1's – second in another.

The horse was clearly best.

Via says he felt almost like an imposter.

Hobnobbing with thoroughbred racing's elite by that Hollywood, California stage gave the Virginia-born insurance salesman pause. "I was wondering, 'what am I doing here?' It was almost unreal. I was a little dazzled.

"I'm looking around the room and there's sheikhs and billionaires and legends. My god, they're at the top the heap.

"And me."

t was kindly counsel from Canadian billionaire, racetrack owner and multi-time champion breeder Frank Stronach's son, Andrew, that quelled Via's brief instant of insecurity.

"He was there to accept an award for his father – I remember this (conversation) like it was yesterday. I was saying I didn't really belong, and he said, 'hell, if you were invited here, you belong here.' "

A few minutes later, Via strolled with renewed confidence across the stage to collect Good Night Shirt's first Eclipse Award as champion 'chaser. "I wasn't nervous any more because of what he said. I still remember that. I guess he was right.

"Right place, right time, right horse. That's what did it."

Good Night Shirt was Via's best hurdler in a long line of National Steeplechase Association winners he's had over more than three decades in the game.

Sonny Via *©Tod Marks*

"Ann Via and I were lucky as hell to have some really good horses," says the 92-year-old Via, as usual referring to his late wife of 61 years by both her first and last names. She died in 2014, but Sonny Via still credits her as a vital part of his racing success. "Good Night Shirt was the one people remember," Via says. "There's others – Hinterland, Footpad, Welshman – he won at Foxfield just last spring.

"But Good Night Shirt. He was the greatest."

Via is still able to recall some of the stories, some of the people that put into motion what Via calls the ride of a lifetime.

How it happened

Harold Anderson Via Jr. was born July 18, 1930 in Charlottesville, Virginia. His father was a small businessman with an ardor for good horses and fast cars. The junior Via ended up following his dad into all three.

Sonny Via started showing horses when he was about 10, moving to the open jumper division – he especially loved the old knockdown-and-out classes, by age 15. One of his contemporaries was neighbor and eventual show jumping hall of fame rider Rodney Jenkins.

The Vias showed horses all summer through Sonny's youth, up and down the Shenandoah Valley at county fairs and local and regional shows. They hunted with the local Farmington Hunt.

After high school graduation, Via studied at the University of Virginia for a semester then joined the U.S. Navy. It was during the Korean conflict, and he and a friend decided to sign up rather than sweat out the draft.

When not away at sea, Via was stationed at Oceana in Virginia Beach. He continued to ride at the local Cavalier Stables.

One day at the barn, a real-life meet-cute rocked his world.

"I was out there at Cavalier, and here comes these two girls – they were driving a brand-spanking new Cadillac towing a two horse trailer with two Dalmations in the back seat," Via remembers being instantly smitten by Ann's vivacity and beauty. "She had this boyfriend at the time. I had to relieve her of that, but, you know, we made it 61 years.

"My mom always told me the military was the best thing that ever happened to me. I argue that Ann Via was the best thing that ever happened to me."

When he was discharged from the navy, Via entered a lifelong career in the casualty commercial insurance business, working out of Baltimore, Richmond and Norfolk. He retired in 1984 and the couple moved to a small farm in Free Union, near Charlottesville.

Via says the farm fed his growing penchant for tinkering and reno. He got totally into the job of fixing up the 1800's cottage: to expand the small home on the farm, they disassembled a 1776 house off another property they owned in rural Dinwiddie County, and carefully moved it to Free Union. He helped design a handsome pairing of the two post and beam structures, rebuilt to look like an original frame farmhouse.

"I like everything old," Via says. "Old cars, old friends, old buildings. I love things that (mark) the passing of time."

Via drives in vintage car tours over sometimes thousands of miles. Good Night Shirt's first hurdle win at the 2005 Iroquois collided with one of Via's car rallies. The Vias were already in Nashville that weekend for a car tour, guests of steeplechase owners and vintage car enthusiasts, Douglas and Alex Joyce. "The horse winning that day was icing on the cake," Via says.

Via had previously owned horses in a small partnership with Jack Sanford and others – Farmwick Stables, but he had horses on his own with trainer Jack Fisher starting in the late 1990s. His first horse, Moccasin Run, won his first start for Via – 1998 at Foxfield. It started into motion a dream run for the small stable. Via still says he was always a little cowed even when the success began to pile up.

"I remember one day a horse of ours won at Camden. Our group was excited and jumped up to run to the winner's circle.

"I had to tell them, 'you guys go on down. I can't feel my legs.'

"I had to just sit there for a little bit. I was weak-kneed." He eventually made it for the trophy presentation, but a humble authenticity shines through Via's words.

"These horses were so great, it just overwhelmed me. It did then, and it even does now. "We've had some great times."

Gangly youngster to Hall of Fame champion

Born at Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman's Dance Forth Farm in Chestertown, Maryland, the chestnut son of Breeders' Cup Classic winner and 2014 Maryland-bred Hall of Fame inductee Concern and the Two

Good Night Shirt *©Tod Marks*

Punch mare Hot Story, Good Night Shirt was named after a saying by Tom Bowman's grandmother.

The Bowmans told the Blood-Horse that Good Night Shirt was considered "too big, too immature" to be sold with other Bowman-breds as a yearling, so they sent him for early training with Suzanne Moscarelli (who bred his dam.) He later was with Suzanne's son Vince at Maryland's Fair Hill Training Center.

Sean Clancy and partner Liz Merryman purchased the horse as an unraced 3-year-old and the big gelding embarked on a flat campaign for Clancy's Riverdee Stable. He made his first start in April 2004 at Pimlico and during the summer meet won back-to-back turf starts. That was the extent of his main track success – his flat career concluded with two wins from eight starts.

Trainer Jack Fisher and Sonny Via purchased Good Night Shirt from Riverdee after his last start on the flat in late 2004. "Sean Clancy kept pestering me, telling me I should buy this horse," Fisher recalls. "I finally got tired of hearing him talk about it so we bought the horse."

Good Night Shirt won his first NSA start, a training turf at the old Strawberry Hill meet in Richmond in April, 2005. It was rider Willie Dowling's first NSA win, having arrived in the U.S. from Ireland just a week before.

He was third in his hurdle debut two weeks later at Foxfield Spring, and broke his hurdle maiden at Iroquois two weeks after that. They were brought down in a rough race at Saratoga, Dowling was sidelined and Xavier Aizpuru got the mount. With Aizpuru aboard, Good Night Shirt won the grade 2 Ferguson at Colonial Downs the next summer, second in the Smithwick.

Dowling got the ride back for the Royal Chase at Keeneland in April, 2007, and stayed aboard the rest of the horse's career. That year, they won the Iroquois, Lonesome Glory and Colonial Cup — all grade 1 — to earn his first Eclipse. He defeated three-time champion and future Hall of Famer McDynamo twice that season.

In 2008, Good Night Shirt raced exclusively in grade 1 company, taking in succession the Georgia Cup, Iroquois, Lonesome Glory, Grand National and Colonial Cup. Good Night Shirt's 2008 earnings of $485,520 set a single-season record, surpassing the previous mark of $314,163, which he'd set in 2007.

At 8, Good Night Shirt started the 2009 season winning the grade 2 Carolina Cup for his 10th career graded stakes win.

He retired after second in the Iroquois with a fracture to his cannon bone. Good Night Shirt recovered and was pensioned to Fisher's Monkton, Maryland farm where he lived for years in the 60-acre retiree field at Kingfisher. Pasturemates included timber champions Saluter and Call Louis.

Good Night Shirt was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 2017. He died in 2018, and is buried in Fisher's field alongside Saluter.

Good Night Shirt won 14 of 33 lifetime starts, career earnings of $1,041,083. He was the third steeplechaser in history to surpass $1 million in career earnings, and was the first 'chaser to be named Maryland-bred Horse of the Year – in 2008.

He earned four consecutive Maryland-bred steeplechase championship titles (2006-2009).

Dowling found his perfect match

Jockey Willie Dowling got the mount on Good Night Shirt just a week after relocating to Maryland from his native Kilkenny, Ireland. It was his first American winner, too – a training flat race at the Strawberry Hill meet at Colonial Downs.

Dowling got the call in the horse's hurdle debut two weeks later at owner Sonny Via's home meet – Foxfield near Charlottesville.

Good Night Shirt darted to a wide lead from the flag, stumbled at the ninth fence up the hill by the stable area but recovered to finish third.

Fisher wheeled the horse back in a competitive maiden at Iroquois two weeks later. Good Night Shirt jumped well and won easily.

It set into motion what Dowling calls a dream ride. "This was the horse of a lifetime. (Trainer Jack Fisher) always said nobody heard of me before Good Night Shirt.

"I say nobody heard of Good Night Shirt before me."

— Classifieds —

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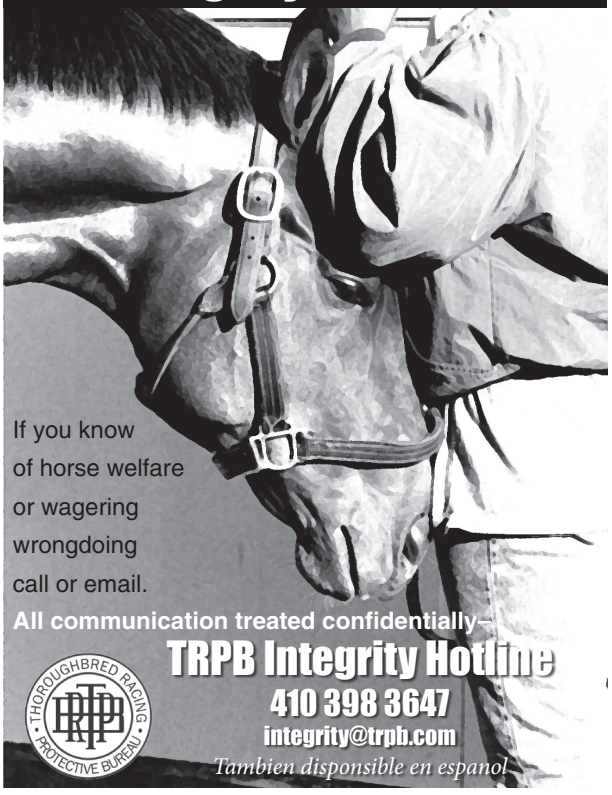

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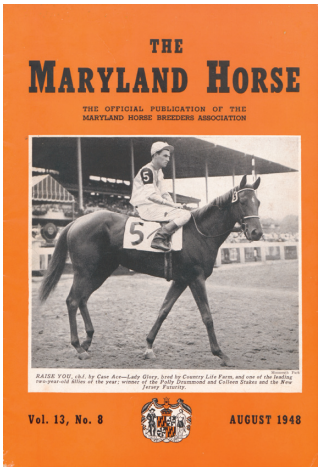
THOROUGHBRED RACING PROTECTIVE BUREAU

— Looking Back —



75 years ago

■ William L. Brann's Escadru flashed fine form to win the Peter Pan Handicap at Belmont Park. "This led to the belief that the son of *Challenger II and [the *Sir Gallahad III mare] Escalade might possibly be the horse to knock Calumet Farm's Citation from his throne." Those hopes were "dashed to smithereens in the Belmont Stakes, for Citation once again proved that he has both speed and stamina by racing the 1½ miles in record time, leaving all rivals, including Escadru [who finished third], strung out far behind him."

■ "Seldom has a sport's debut been as successful as the introduction of modern night harness racing to Marylanders the night of June 21 at the 'old Ross Farm' at Laurel." A throng estimated at more than 10,000, predominantly from Washington and environs, crammed into the roofless grandstand or sat on benches out on the apron at Laurel Raceway as the first of eight races went off about 8:15 p.m. "It was a crowd of amateurs, actually, all curious to understand what was going on, but relaxed and enjoying themselves."

The new barn area was overrun with horses, forcing a number to stable at nearby Laurel Race Course. Among the winners the first night was a 19-year-old gelding who took the second race, and 11-year-old stallion Watson E. Direct, who scored in the $1,000 Inaugural.

■ Havre de Grace's summer meet took a hard hit, with the consensus being that Laurel's night sport definitely cut into its attendance and betting. Other factors included poor rail service to the track, and the main highway between Baltimore and Havre de Grace being torn up by construction.

"The combination of the bad summer meet, with a poor spring meeting where bad weather and minus pools on Citation hurt, left the track decidedly hard hit. Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord, president, and Charles J. McLennan, general manager, after taking stock of the 1948 record, have decided to 'sit tight' on 1949 until they know what all neighboring states are going to do on dates. . ."

Havre de Grace's last meet ran in 1950.

■ Harry LaMontagne's mare Conniver and W.L. Brann's champion Gallorette put on a show in the Brooklyn Handicap at Aqueduct, as the Maryland-breds ripped the field apart in the stretch to finish one-two, Conniver winning by a head. A 4-year-old daughter of Discovery bred by Alfred G. Vanderbilt and out of a *Challenger II mare bred by Brann, Conniver made her stakes debut less than a month earlier when she just missed nailing Stymie in the Aqueduct Handicap.

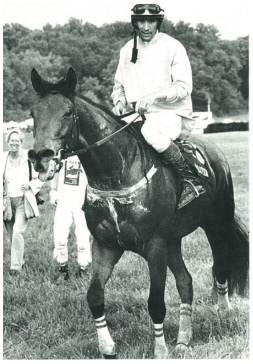
■ Raise You, a daughter of Case Ace and Lady Glory bred by Country Life Farm but foaled in New Jersey, ranked as one of the top 2-year-old fillies of the year after taking the Polly Drummond, Colleen Stakes and New Jersey Futurity at Monmouth.

Raise You left her mark on the breed as dam of champion and influential sire Raise a Native, one of her six stakes performers.

25 years ago

■ After Real Quiet's Kentucky Derby-G1 victory and Preakness-G1 performance, both over former Maryland-based Victory Gallop, the racing world was ready for a Triple Crown winner. With former Maryland-based jockey Kent Desormeaux aboard for trainer Bob Baffert, Mike Pegram's $17,000 yearling purchase had a daylight lead at the top of Belmont's long stretch but was caught at the wire by Victory Gallop by the slimmest of noses – the narrowest Belmont loss of any Derby/Preakness winner.

■ Ann and Henry Stern's Saluter, with trainer/jockey Jack Fisher aboard, won his fifth consecutive Virginia Gold Cup – a


DOUGLAS LEES

20-mile run over 115 fences. Joe Clancy Jr. wrote, "The five straight wins in a race as important as the Gold Cup outdistance any other steeplechase streak. Nobody won five, period."

The next year the Virginia-bred won it for a sixth time.

■ After 10 years of effort, trainer Michael Dickinson unveiled his new Tapeta Farm in Maryland's Cecil County. The training facilities included a 7-furlong gallop made with Dickinson's patented Tapeta mixture, three turf gallops, an exercise machine, and miles of potential trails and fields.

Dickinson's Tapeta footing, an all-weather synthetic material, is used for racetracks and training tracks worldwide, including Presque Isle Downs and Fair Hill Training Center, among others.

■ Carolyn Hine's Skip Away ran away with the Pimlico Special-G1. Grabbing the early lead, the Sonny Hine trainee coasted to a 3¼-length victory as the 1-5 favorite. His 128-pound impost was the most weight carried by a Pimlico Special winner since War Admiral in 1937.

The Special was Skip Away's fifth consecutive Grade 1 victory and part of a nine-race win streak. The Hall of Famer retired at the end of the year with Horse of the Year honors and earnings of $9,616,360.

PATRICIA MCQUEEN

10 years ago

■ Pennsylvania-bred Princess of Sylmar captured the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks for her owner and breeder, longtime Pennsylvania resident Ed Stanco (above). It was her third stakes win of the year in four starts.

■ The Preakness victory by Oxbow for Brad Kelley's Calumet Farm was the third in the classic for 50-year-old jockey Gary Stevens, and sixth for 77-year-old trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who passed Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons for most victories in Triple Crown races, with 14.

■ Representatives of the three 2013 classic winners – Kentucky Derby victor Orb's co-owner/breeder Stuart Janney III; Preakness winner Oxbow's breeder, New Jersey resident Richard Santulli; and Cot Campbell of Dogwood Farm, owner of Belmont Stakes winner Palace Malice – provided a Triple Crown season with deep Mid-Atlantic roots.

■ Lazy Lane Farm's classic winner Hansel was profiled in Pensioners On Parade. At 25, Hansel was the oldest winner of a Triple Crown race. The 1991 Preakness/Belmont Stakes winner, bred in Virginia by Marvin Little Jr., had been purchased as a yearling by Joe Allbritton's Lazy Lane Farms for $150,000 at Keeneland. He earned nearly $3 million, stood at stud in Kentucky and New York, and was sold to Japanese interests in 2000. Five years later Allbritton got him back to live out his life at the Upperville, Va., farm.

■ The inaugural Penn Mile attracted some of racing's biggest names and helped smash Penn National handle records. The evening was the brainchild of Dan Silver, the track's director of racing, and modeled after the Charles Town Classic card at Charles Town, another Penn National Gaming track. "For tracks like Penn National and Charles Town, the way to build brand awareness and year-round customer interest is to do something that really creates a splash and shows people your track can put on big race nights," said Silver. "It brings a level of credibility to our track." Rydilluc, owned by New Jersey residents Leonard and Lois Green and several partners and trained by Gary Contessa, took home the winner's share of the $500,000 purse.

Now a Grade 2 , this year's running was won by Spendthrift Farm's 2-5 favorite Major Dude, who defeated seven others in a stakes-record 1:33:73.

■ Joe Hickey Jr., whose multi-faceted career extended from prolific writer to racing official to administrative and general manager of Windfields Farm during the career of the world's most famous stallion, Northern Dancer, died at 86 in Easton, Md. He was a regular contributor to *The Morning Telegraph* and *Daily Racing Form* (writing a breeding column for 27 years) and the *Maryland Horse*. His articles and essays appeared in *The Blood-Horse* over a span of 50 years.

50 years ago

■ Timonium, the lone survivor among Maryland's half-mile tracks, faced an uncertain future as the chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission (J. Newton Brewer Jr.) and president of the local division of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (Fendall M. Clagett) voiced their desire to have its racing dates transferred to the mile-track circuit. When asked about the 86-year-old track's future, 33-year-old Howard "Max" Mosner Jr., recently hired as acting general manager, replied: "Mr. Brewer keeps maintaining that Timonium would make more money if its dates were transferred on a lease arrangement to the milers, but the truth is that we're making enough money right here."

Maryland Horse editor Snowden Carter also weighed in: "I've got to think that Timonium has a little bit of color and romance that doesn't exist at the Maryland milers. For my money, Timonium is a fun meeting. No national championships are decided, no hundred thousand dollar purses are distributed, but everyone is close enough to the action to reach out and touch the horses. In a word, I *love* Timonium. And I hope she never dies."

■ Steeplechase great A. Patrick "Paddy" Smithwick was inducted into racing's Hall of Fame. The Maryland native was the nation's champion steeplechase jockey five times and retired with national records for races won (398), stakes won, earnings (more than $1.8 million) and mounts (more than 2,100). Most of his mounts were trained by his brother, D. Michael "Mikey" Smithwick, also a Hall of Famer.

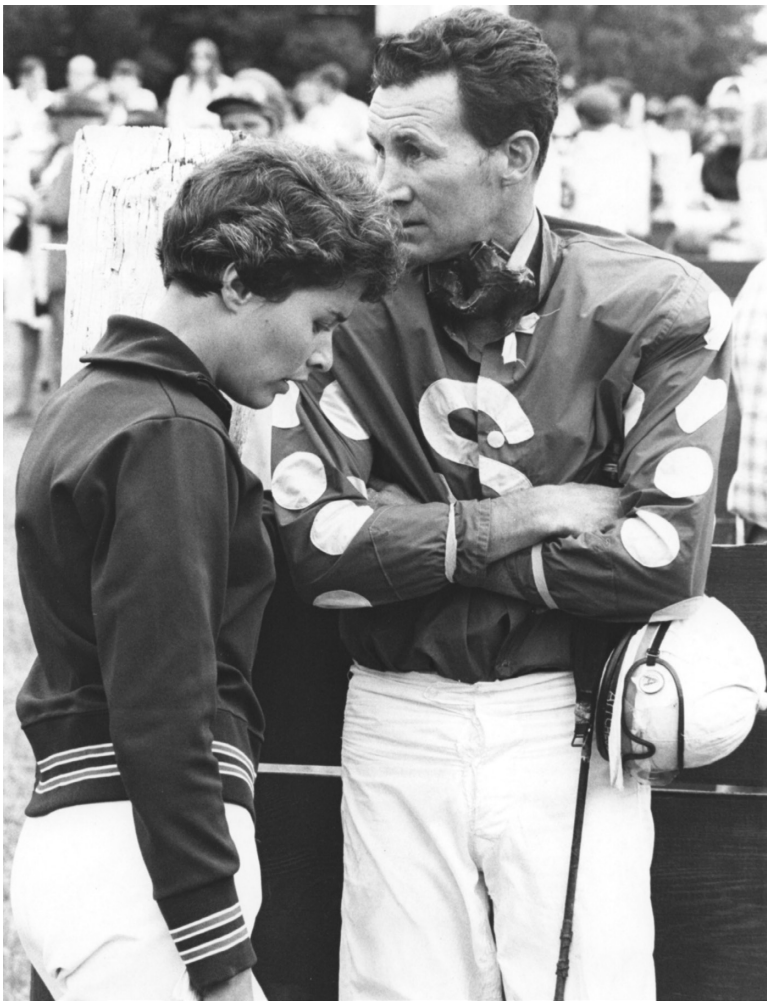
■ Two Maryland-bred Kentucky Derby-winning sons of Native Dancer became expatriates after launching stud careers in Maryland. Kauai King, the 1966 Derby winner, was sold to Japanese interests after standing the last two seasons in England. Also winner of the Preakness, he initially stood at his birthplace, Sagamore Farm.

After standing his first five years at Glade Valley Farm in Frederick, Dancer's Image was leased to Daniel Wildenstein for stud duty in Ireland. The gray finished first in the 1968 Kentucky Derby but was disqualified when found to have traces of butazolidin in his system.

■ Lexington Park had made 76 starts over a four-year period without winning a stakes before being claimed by David G. Smith for $14,000 at Laurel in December 1972, on the advice of trainer Dickie Dutrow. In nine races after, the 6-year-old Maryland-bred gelding won four, two stakes, topped by Monmouth's Oceanport Handicap.

Bred by Allaire duPont, the son of Quadrangle made 209 starts through age 17, won 47 times and earned $357,861. His only stakes wins came in 1973.

■ Nearctic, one of the greatest stallions to stand in the region, was humanely destroyed at age 19. Bred in Canada by E.P. Taylor, the major stakes winner, by Nearco out of *Lady Angela, and sire of Northern Dancer, was brought to Maryland in 1967 when syndicated for $1.05 million. He stood six seasons at Allaire duPont's Woodstock Farm in Chesapeake City.



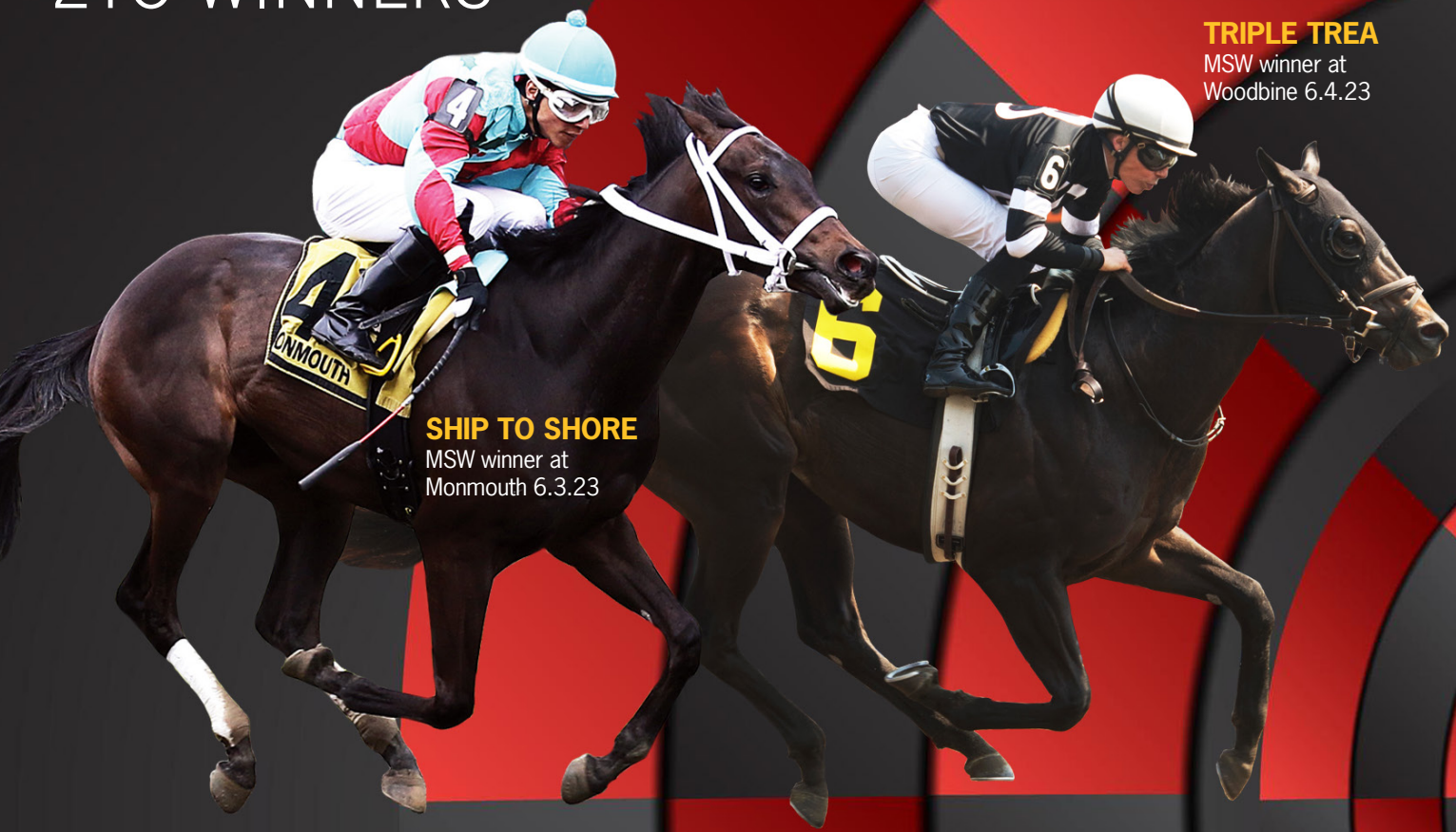
Talking Horses

Kathy Kusner and Joe Aitcheson talk strategy in the paddock at the Fair Hill Races in 1969. Kusner was an Olympic medalist, the first woman to ride in the Maryland Hunt Cup, and the first woman jockey licensed in the United States. Aitcheson set records for American jump wins (440) and championships (seven) during his Hall of Fame career. A fixture on the National Steeplechase Association calendar starting in 1934, Fair Hill underwent a full rebuild of its turf course in Cecil County, Md., in 2019-20 but has not hosted racing since 2019.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides will be digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

First time out!

2YO WINNERS



TRIPLE TREA
MSW winner at
Woodbine 6.4.23

SHIP TO SHORE
MSW winner at
Monmouth 6.3.23

BLACK TYPE WINNER

IRISH BOOLUM
Friendly Love Handicap winner
at Monmouth on 6.11.23

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Big changes, more money for Virginia-Breds

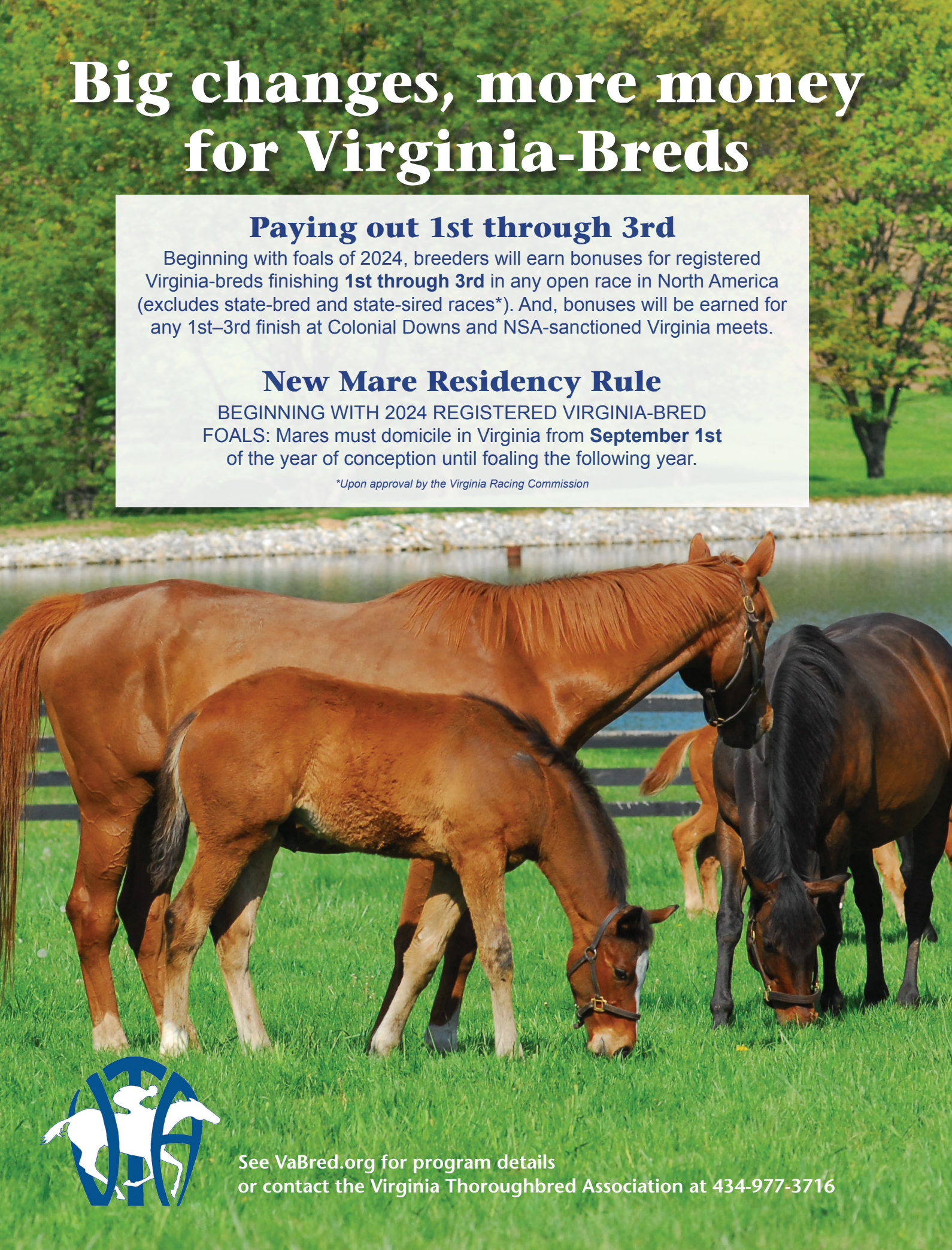
Paying out 1st through 3rd

Beginning with foals of 2024, breeders will earn bonuses for registered Virginia-breds finishing **1st through 3rd** in any open race in North America (excludes state-bred and state-sired races*). And, bonuses will be earned for any 1st–3rd finish at Colonial Downs and NSA-sanctioned Virginia meets.

New Mare Residency Rule

BEGINNING WITH 2024 REGISTERED VIRGINIA-BRED FOALS: Mares must domicile in Virginia from **September 1st** of the year of conception until foaling the following year.

**Upon approval by the Virginia Racing Commission*



See VaBred.org for program details
or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716